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Weekend



Dick Cheney backed Georgia's entry into NATO.

U.S. Support: Cheney slams Russia in visit to Georgia | **7**

Lost Signal: TV switch may leave prisons in the dark | **5**



Century Club?
Nationals try to avoid the dredged 100-loss year | **12**

ENTERTAINMENT

Right Stuff:

Joey McIntyre and the New Kids return with a fresh album. Plus, Britney Spears ponders the VMAs again.



>>**17-26**



MCCAIN'S MOMENT: Sen. John McCain stands with Sen. Joseph Lieberman during a walkthrough before his speech Thursday at the Republican convention.

Race's Final Push Begins

McCain vows bipartisanship in accepting GOP nomination

ST. PAUL, MINN. | John McCain, a Vietnam POW turned political rebel, launched his fall campaign for the White House on Thursday in the final act of a Republican National Convention marked by extraordinary attention on running mate Sarah Palin.

McCain, 72 and hoping to become the oldest first-term president in history, portrayed himself as a candidate who has a record of putting the good of the country before all else, and Democrat Barack Obama as just

the opposite, in accepting the Republican nomination.

"Change is coming," McCain said in prepared remarks released in advance of his appearance Thursday night. "Again and again, I've worked with members of both parties to fix problems that need to be fixed. That's how I will govern as president."

"I have that record and the scars to prove it,"

McCain said. "Senator Obama does not."

The last night of the McCain-Palin convention marked the end of an intensive stretch of politics with the potential to reshape the race.

The polls indicate a close race between McCain and Obama, at 47 a generation younger than his Republican opponent, with the outcome likely to be decided in scattered swing states in the industrial Midwest and the Southwest. (AP)

♦ **RNC highlights:** John McCain's convention speech ended after deadline. For full coverage | **Today's Post, A1**



DID EITHER CONVENTION CHANGE YOUR OPINION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES? **A** YES **B** NO

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SATURDAY

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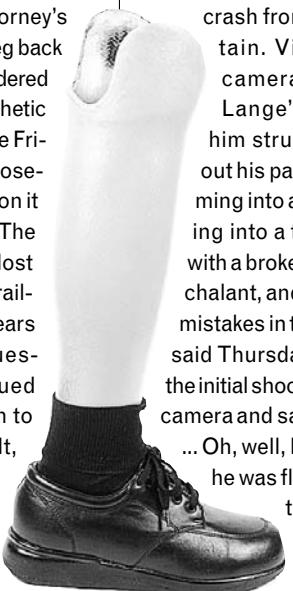
TODAY: Sunny, hot and then increasingly cloudy; rain on Saturday | **38**

eyeOpeners

DEALS

Free Bullet Offer Not Valid With Return

After being shot five times, an Alliance, Neb., man had to go to court to get his prosthetic leg back from prosecutors. The Box Butte County Attorney's office gave Val McCabe's leg back Wednesday after a judge ordered it returned. McCabe's prosthetic left leg had been held since Friday's shooting because prosecutors wanted to run tests on it and a bullet lodged inside. The 58-year-old McCabe, who lost his leg below the knee in a railroad accident roughly 30 years ago, filed his lawsuit Tuesday. McCabe lawyer argued it wasn't practical for him to replace the specially built, \$28,000 prosthesis. Police removed the bullet from the leg before returning it. No arrests had been made by Wednesday. (AP)



BATTLES

Death Loses Round, Will Win in the End

A Norwegian BASE jumper said he learned a hard lesson about tempting fate after surviving a spine-chilling crash from a mile-high mountain. Video captured by a camera attached to Hans Lange's jumpsuit showed him struggling to straighten out his parachute before slamming into a rock wall and crashing into a treetop. He survived with a broken leg. "I was too nonchalant, and there is no room for mistakes in this sport," Lange, 44, said Thursday. After overcoming the initial shock, Lange turned to the camera and said: "What a bummer ... Oh, well, I'm alive." Lange said he was flying down the mountain at nearly 110 mph when he realized he was too close to the wall. (AP)



THIEVES

He Stole the Cards But Left the Identity

Police didn't have much trouble finding a man accused of using a stolen credit card—he signed his own name on one of the receipts. The 21-year-old

Iowa City man is accused of using the credit card to buy a latte and cigarettes. When he used the stolen card to buy the smokes, he signed the receipt with his own signature. Police said he also tried to use the credit card to buy \$154.21 worth of merchandise at another downtown store, but it came

ATTRACTIOnS

Different Angles

The Trassenheide, Germany, upside-down house we reported on last week opened for business Thursday. Visitors enter through the attic, ascending (via right-side-up stairs) to the ground floor. The structure is built in the midst of right-side-up houses near the Polish border, according to published reports. The creator, businessman Klaudiusz Golos, says the home is meant to offer "an experiment for the senses." (EXPRESS)

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The number of television viewers, in millions, who watched Gov. Sarah Palin's speech at the Republican National Convention on Wednesday night, according to an estimate released by Nielsen Media Research.

Nation



DAILY DIARY | WASHINGTONPOST.COM

YORK, PA.

Convention Response

Sen. Barack Obama addressed reporters Thursday in York, Penn., and had feisty words for Gov. Sarah Palin, Sen. John McCain, and all the other Republicans who have been railing against him this week in St. Paul, Minn.

"I understand they don't have much of an agenda to run on," the Illinois senator said. "But I think the American people deserve better than to get the



Obama

same old vitriol and slash-and-burn politics that we've been seeing over the last couple of days. We are going to tell the American people exactly what

I and Joe Biden and an Obama administration intend to do to make their lives better. And I hope at some point the Republicans decide to engage in that debate."

A reporter asked Obama whether he is surprised by the Republican attacks.

"What did you guys expect?" Obama replied. "I anticipated this last Thursday in my acceptance speech. This is what they do. They don't have an agenda to run on. They haven't offered a single concrete idea so far in two nights. ... And by the way, I've been called worse on the basketball court." SHAILEIGH MURRAY

washingtonpost.com

For extended analysis and up-to-the-minute updates from the campaign trail, visit blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail

Abramoff Gets 4-Year Prison Term

In court appearance, former lobbyist says he is a 'broken man'

WASHINGTON | Jack Abramoff, the once powerful lobbyist at the heart of a far-reaching political corruption scandal, was sentenced to four years in prison Thursday by a judge who said the case had shattered the public's confidence in government.

Abramoff, who fought back tears as he declared himself a broken man,

appeared crestfallen as the judge handed down a sentence lengthier than prosecutors had sought.

Over the past three years, Abramoff has come to symbolize corruption and the secret deals cut between lobbyists and politicians in back rooms or on golf courses or private jets. The scandal shook Washington and contributed to the Republicans' loss of Congress in 2006.

"I come before you as a broken man," Abramoff said at his sentencing before U.S. District Judge Ellen



Abramoff

Segal Huvelle. "I'm not the same man who happily and arrogantly engaged in a lifestyle of political and business corruption."

He added later that, "My name is the butt of a joke, the source of a laugh and the title of a scandal."

Already two years into a prison term from a separate case in Florida, Abramoff, 49, will have spent

about six years in prison by the time he is released, far longer than he and his attorneys expected for a man who became the key FBI witness in his own corruption case.

With Abramoff's help, the Justice Department has won corruption convictions against former Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, former Deputy Interior Secretary J. Steven Griles and several Capitol Hill aides. Because of that cooperation, the Justice Department said little in court while urging leniency.

MATT APUZZO (AP)

NEW YORK | WAIT FOR THE WIND



ED OUAP

SAIL PACE: Virgin Group CEO Sir Richard Branson mans the helm of the "Virgin Money" during a trial sail Thursday before attempting to break the transatlantic sailing record. The crew is waiting for a hurricane to come far enough north to give them the winds needed to break the record, which is six days, 17 hours, 52 minutes and 39 seconds.

Army Suicides Could Hit New High This Year

WASHINGTON | Soldier suicides this year could surpass the record rate of last year, Army officials said Thursday, urging military leaders at all levels to redouble prevention efforts. As of the end of August, there were 62 confirmed suicides among active duty soldiers and Guard and Reserve troops called to active duty, officials said. Another 31 deaths appear to be suicides but are still being investigated.

If all are confirmed, that means that the number for 2008 could eclipse the 115 of last year — and the rate per 100,000 could surpass that of the civilian population, said Col. Eddie Stephens, deputy director of human resources policy. (AP)



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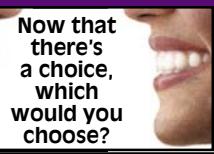
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Nation

102

The number of protesters arrested in Minneapolis early Thursday, raising to more than 400 the number arrested in demonstrations at the Republican National Convention.

O.J. Simpson Back on Trial

Conviction on robbery charges could send him to prison for life

LAS VEGAS | Once upon a time, O.J. Simpson was a national sports hero, showered with adulation and endorsement contracts. He was the "Juice" — a Hall of Fame football star, actor, TV commentator and pitchman with a beautiful wife, two children and a Rolls Royce.

But the stabbing death of his ex-wife more than 14 years ago makes those early days seem a lifetime away. It was a life before allegations of murder, robbery and kidnapping, before the world he knew ended and a new, darker one began.

The next chapter unfolds Monday in a Las Vegas courtroom, where Simpson and co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart go on trial on armed robbery and kidnapping charges. A conviction could send them to prison for life.

Simpson, 61, is accused of leading an odd collection of characters, including three convicted criminals, to a casino hotel room, where they were charged with holding



O.J. Simpson, seen here on Jan. 17, 2008, is accused of leading an armed robbery in a Las Vegas casino hotel room. The trial in the case will begin on Monday.

two sports collectibles dealers at gunpoint and taking memorabilia that Simpson maintains belonged to him.

Simpson has said he was trying to retrieve personal belongings and family heirlooms, that he didn't ask anyone to bring guns, and that he didn't know anyone was armed.

But four of the five men who accompanied him have pleaded

guilty and agreed to testify against Simpson.

Some believe the new trial will be shadowed by the past.

"I think the public is going to see and hear what they want to and hope that he is convicted," said Jerry Reisman, an attorney who represented Simpson on business matters. "It's going to be difficult for O.J. to get a fair trial." LINDA DEUTSCH (AP)

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CLEAN CUT: Gasoline-powered lawn mowers blamed for air pollution will have to be cleaner under new rules from the Environmental Protection Agency issued Thursday. The regulation requires a 35 percent cut in emissions from new lawn and garden equipment with engines under 25 horsepower.

Nation

Dems Unhappy With Lieberman

WASHINGTON | Senate Democrats hinted at payback Thursday for Sen. Joe Lieberman, who called Barack Obama an untested candidate in a prime-time Republican National Convention address.

Lieberman, a Democrat-turned-independent and a close friend of Sen. John McCain's, still caucuses with Democrats, which allows them to control the Senate with a 51-49 majority. "Lieberman went too far when he distorted Sen. Obama's record," said Reid spokesman Jim Manley. (AP)

HEARSAY | RESIDENCY

"I would like to thank the judge for working hard in this case. ... The justice system in this country is great."

—MOHAMMAD QATANANI, AN INFLUENTIAL MUSLIM LEADER IN NEW JERSEY, SPEAKING THURSDAY AFTER AN IMMIGRATION JUDGE GRANTED HIM PERMANENT U.S. RESIDENCY.

Prisons Not Covered in TV Switch

Officials say inmates will be hard to handle if they lose TV signal

COLUMBIA, S.C. | The big switch to digital TV has prison officials scrambling to keep one of the most important peacekeeping tools in prisons across the nation — broadcast television.

When the nation's broadcasters switch from analog to digital signals next Feb. 17, televisions that aren't hooked up to cable, satellite or a converter box will be reduced to static. While TV might seem like an undeserved luxury for inmates, prison officials and inmates say the tube does more than fill idle hours — it provides a sense of normalcy and is a bargaining chip to encourage good behavior.

The TV industry has spent months preparing consumers for the switch, running ads and offering government-funded coupons that can be redeemed for the converter boxes needed to display the digital



An unidentified inmate at the Campbell pre-release facility changes the channel as he joins others watching TV in the day room Wednesday in Columbia, S.C.

signal on older TVs. But officials worry that prisoners may be left to stare at blank screens because they don't qualify for the coupons.

"They won't give us the switches," said South Carolina Corrections

Department Director Jon Ozmint. "We asked them for the coupons, and they said they're only available for households. I said, 'We're the big house.' But they didn't buy it."

In Florida, corrections depart-

ment spokeswoman Gretl Plessinger said officials are asking for donations for the digital boxes and could buy the converters themselves.

Officials say TV helps to keep the peace in the nation's prison system.

But that's something that may need legislators' approval because Florida law bars spending money on perks like cable TV for inmates. "It's important because it's an inmate idleness issue," Plessinger said. "[We're] concerned about inmates' acting up if they're bored."

Norris Henderson, who spent 27 years in prison, said it's a myth that inmates idle away the day watching soap operas and game shows.

"If anything has a priority [on the televisions], it's the news," Henderson said. JIM DAVENPORT (AP)

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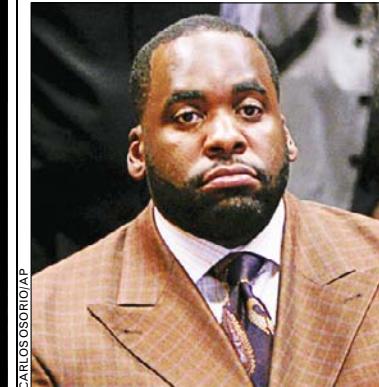
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Former mayor Kwame Kilpatrick sits in Wayne County Circuit Court in Detroit.

Detroit's Mayor Resigns

Kilpatrick to serve 4 months in jail, pay \$1M in restitution

DETROIT | Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick pleaded guilty to a pair of felony obstruction charges in a sex-and-misconduct scandal and resigned from office after months of defiantly holding onto his job leading the 11th-largest U.S. city.

The plea deal on Thursday brings to an end a seven-month-long sex scandal that led to felony charges against Kilpatrick and plunged the city, region and state into political chaos.

As part of the deal, the 38-year-old Democrat is to serve four months in jail and five years of probation, and pay \$1 million in restitution over the probationary period. Payments from his state pension must be assigned to the city of Detroit toward the restitution. He also cannot run for any elected office for five years and loses his law license.

The married mayor and his former top aide, Christine Beatty, were charged in March with perjury, misconduct and obstruction of justice. They're accused of lying under oath about an affair and their roles in the firing of a deputy police chief.

City Council President Ken Cockrel Jr. will succeed Kilpatrick as mayor until a special election is held. (AP)



ROBIN HOOD HIJINKS: Greek police say a group of about 70 youths protesting high consumer prices seized food and household products from a supermarket in Thessaloniki, Greece, before handing them out to people on the street. Despite the report, police announced no arrests.

World

Cheney: Georgia Will Enter NATO

Vice president decries Russia's use of force in former Soviet republic

KIEV, UKRAINE | Vice President Dick Cheney insisted that Georgia will join NATO and backed its attempts to rebuild from its war with Russia on Thursday, using a trip to former Soviet republics as a show of support for their pro-Western leaders.

Cheney flew to Kiev from Georgia, where he denounced Russia's "illegitimate, unilateral attempt" to

redraw Georgia's borders by force.

"Georgia will be in our alliance," Cheney said while standing alongside Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, whose pro-Western government has sought to join NATO despite Russian opposition.

Russian officials have repeatedly said U.S. military aid was instrumental in emboldening Georgia to try to retake South Ossetia by force on Aug. 7. The attack sparked five days of fighting and resulted in Russian forces driving into South Ossetia and on into Georgia.



Dick Cheney and Mikhail Saakashvili meet an Air Force member in Tbilisi.

Speaking in Moscow, Konstantin Kosachyov, head of foreign affairs committee in the Kremlin-controlled lower house, accused Cheney of trying to forge an "anti-Russian axis." "It's Cheney who was behind all recent events on the former Soviet turf," Kosachyov said.

The vice president's trip was intended as a signal that the U.S. will continue cultivating close ties with Georgia and its neighbors, even after Russia showed it was willing to use military force against countries along its border. MARIA DANILOVA (AP)

Raid Fuels Anger in Pakistan

Foreign assault erodes support for pro-U.S. presidential candidate

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN | A deadly American-led raid on a Pakistani village embarrassed the government and eroded support for the pro-U.S. presidential front-runner Thursday, just days before the election.

Furor continued to mount over the foreign ground assault inside Pakistan against a suspected Taliban haven. The government summoned the U.S. ambassador for a protest, while Parliament passed resolutions of condemnation.

In news likely to stoke more anger, officials said a missile strike was suspected in a blast Thursday that killed at least four people in North Waziristan, where Osama bin Laden and his deputy are thought to be hiding. Previous such strikes have been blamed on the U.S.

The Wednesday raid has complicated life for presidential hopeful Asif Ali Zardari and his Pakistan People's Party heading into Saturday's vote to elect a successor to ex-President Pervez Musharraf. Many Pakistanis blame the party's U.S. ties for fueling violence by Islamic militants. NAHAL TOOSI (AP)



Anti-government protesters dance during a concert held on the grounds of the prime minister's office Thursday in Bangkok.

Lengthy Thai Protest Turns Festive

Anti-government rally boasts massages, free food on the 10th day

BANGKOK, THAILAND | Once only open to the ruling elite, Thailand's stately Government House has turned into a cross between a refugee camp and a fairground.

Thousands of anti-government protesters occupying the prime minister's office compound have set up a fully functioning tent community with free food donated by

Bangkok eateries, outdoor showers, entertainment, massages and lots of manicured shrubs for hanging laundry to dry.

The siege, in its 10th day Thursday, is aimed at forcing Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej to resign. The demonstrators have not yet succeeded in kicking him out of office, but they have certainly kept him out of his office.

To ease the kinks caused by round-the-clock protesting, massages are available under the shade of palm trees for \$3 per hour.

In a live radio broadcast Thursday, Samak called the situation a national embarrassment and refused to step down — drawing boos and jeers from thousands of protesters fanning themselves on lawn chairs outside his office.

"I am outside and can't work properly," Samak said, his speech broadcast from a sound stage set up on the Government House lawn.

The protests mark the first time in Thailand's history that civilians have overrun the seat of government. JOCELYN GECKER (AP)

In Brief



People sit near a sculpture marking the May 12 earthquake in Pengzhou, China.

BEIJING

Scientist Cites Construction Flaws in May Quake Deaths

Nearly four months after China's devastating May 12 earthquake, a government scientist acknowledged Thursday that a rush to build schools in recent years likely led to construction flaws causing so many of them to collapse. It was the first official admission that low building standards may have been behind the deaths of thousands of children. Critics had raised questions about shoddy construction after the 7.9-magnitude quake killed nearly 70,000 people. (AP)

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Syrian President Offers Israel Peace Proposal

Syria's leader said Thursday he offered a proposal for peace with Israel but also refused to break off ties with Hezbollah and militant Palestinians — a key Israeli demand. President Bashar Assad also said indirect talks with Israel were on hold until that country chooses a new prime minister and that direct talks would have to wait until a new U.S. president takes office. (AP)

TEHRAN, IRAN

Bill to Ease Polygamy Angers Women, Top Justice Official

A bill that would allow Iranian men to take additional wives without the consent of their first wife has angered women and the country's top justice official, who say it would undermine women's rights and could be a government attempt to more deeply enshrine its strict Islamic interpretation into law. Outcry over the bill forced parliament to postpone a vote planned for Tuesday. (AP)

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express



DAMIR SAGOLJ/PA
A U.S. soldier walks near cells in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq in May 2004.

Face-Lift For Abu Ghraib

Portion of notorious prison near Baghdad will become museum

BAGHDAD | Iraq is planning to give the notorious Abu Ghraib prison a face-lift, complete with a museum documenting Saddam Hussein's crimes, though not abuses committed there by U.S. guards, the government said Thursday.

The government said the sprawling prison complex, which has not held prisoners since 2006, will be refurbished in order to accept new inmates in about a year.

A section of the 280-acre prison just west of Baghdad will be converted into the museum, featuring exhibitions of execution chambers and torture tools used by Saddam's regime, including an iron chain used to tie prisoners together.

"There is evidence of the crimes [Saddam committed], such as the hooks used to dangle prisoners, tools used to beat and torture prisoners and ... the execution chambers in which 50 or 100 people were killed at once," Deputy Justice Minister Busho Ibrahim, told The Associated Press.

But the Iraqi government has no plans for the museum to include displays dedicated to the U.S. military abuse scandal that erupted in 2004.

"That was nothing compared to what Saddam has done," Ibrahim said. BUSHRA JUHI (AP)



FUTURE METRO RIDER: One of Virginia's newest residents got an early introduction to a D.C.-area staple: gridlock. Melody Burgess of Woodbridge gave birth to Joshua Inthilith on the side of I-95 Thursday morning after getting caught in rush-hour traffic.

Local

In Brief

WASHINGTON

D.C. Officers Involved With Teen's Death Back at Work

Two D.C. police officers involved in a fatal shooting of a 14-year-old boy last year have returned to full duty. Police Chief Cathy Lanier said James Haskel and Anthony Clay were back at work after completing refresher training following their time away from the job. The officers were put on paid administrative leave nearly a year ago pending an investigation. While off-duty, the officers had confronted Deonte Rawlings over a minibike that Haskel thought was stolen from his home. (AP)



Lanier

WASHINGTON

Capital Planners Approve Design for MLK Memorial

Designers working on the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial have passed one of the final hurdles before they can begin construction. The National Capital Planning Commission approved the final site building plans for the memorial Thursday. But the panel rejected plans for security bollards and a donor recognition wall at the site. (AP)

REISTERSTOWN, MD.

Storm Likely to Force Bay Bridge Closure Saturday

Gov. Martin O'Malley says winds from Tropical Storm Hanna likely will force the Bay Bridge to close for some period of time on Saturday. The bridge is sometimes closed temporarily when strong winds blow over the Chesapeake Bay. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Sept. 4

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	5-4-3
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	5-8-4
Mid-day DC 4	0-1-3-0
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	7-6-7-7
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	2-6-8-22-33
Daily 6 (Wed.)	12-20-30-31-36-37 Bonus: 21
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	2-II-19-27-38 (7)

Md. Woman Found Dead in Home

Mont. County police probe whether death is linked to area attacks

Montgomery County detectives are investigating whether the death of a woman whose body was found in her Bethesda home Thursday morning is linked to recent attacks in which elderly victims in affluent areas have been tied up and their homes burglarized.

Police said the woman was discovered by a relative in the 8900 block of Seven Locks Road, in a neighborhood just outside the Capital Beltway. Police did not release the woman's name but said she was in her 60s.

Her home appeared to have been burglarized, and her car is missing,



KEVIN CLARK/TWP

A Montgomery County, Md., police officer stands guard Thursday at the Bethesda, Md., home where a woman in her 60s was found dead on Thursday morning.

police said. The death has not been ruled a homicide but is considered suspicious, police said.

Since last September, detectives have investigated five other home invasion burglaries that appear to be related. None of the victims was critically injured in those incidents, and all were older than the woman found dead this morning. All were bound.

Montgomery police issued previous warnings that an assailant might be striking every several months. As the attacks continued, police said they were concerned that a future victim might be seriously hurt. Victims in the previous assaults described the assailant as a Hispanic man, based in part on his accent, police have said.

DAN MORSE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

School Uses Parents To Curb Alcohol Use

HAGERSTOWN, MD. | The threat of a scolding from Mom and Dad may be among the most effective deterrents to underage drinking among college students.

Tough parental notification rules at Frostburg State University have helped slash alcohol violations at the western Maryland school, says President Jonathan C. Giralter, who won national recognition for his efforts this week.

The school's policies include notifying parents of alcohol violations and bringing students before a university judicial board even if they were arrested off-campus.

Frostburg State officials credit those policies with an 89 percent plunge in second offenses after the rules were implemented in 1998-99.

Off-campus citations dropped 39 percent after Giralter extended the policies to off-campus arrests last year.

"Clearly, working with parents gets the message out," Giralter said. "If your mom or dad calls you up and says, 'If I hear another word that you're out of line, you're out of school,' I think that probably has an impact."

DAVID DISHNEAU (AP)

Pr. George's Probes Infant Shooting

SUITLAND, MD. | Prince George's County police say an 8-month-old baby was killed in a shooting in Suitland that also wounded his 22-year-old father.

Police spokesman Cpl. Stephen Pacheco says the shooting was reported in a parking lot at an apartment building in the 2600 block of Shadyside Avenue at about

8:50 p.m. Wednesday.

Pacheco says when officers arrived, they found the baby boy and his father suffering from gunshot wounds. The infant, who was in a car seat inside a car and was identified as Anthony Maurice Savoy III, died at the scene. The man was taken to a hospital in critical condition. (AP)

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MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	8-1-6	7-3-0-6
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-2-3	Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.) 2-5-II-27-34
Mid-day Pick 4	2-9-4-8	Evening Cash 5 (Wed.) 4-II-12-17-27
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	9-3-7-1	Win for Life (Wed.) 14-23-43-44-54
Match 5 (Wed.)	2-3-8-18-31 Bonus: 29	
Lotto (Wed.)	8-II-16-28-29-42	

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	0-4-1	
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	3-4-5	
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	2-8-8-2	

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	38-40-46-49-50 (34)	
Power Play		2X

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Money



TJX Cos. is among a number of retailers struggling in the nation's tough economy. Back-to-school sales — traditionally, a big moneymaker — were slow in August.

Back-to-School Sales Disappoint

Analyst: Lack of hot trends, poor economy help explain results

NEW YORK | When it came to buying their children new jeans and trendy tops, parents held the line: They focused on basics at discounters and waited for the best deals, resulting in weak August sales at many stores. That's a bad sign for the holiday season as families may be just as cautious with their gift-giving.

Even lower gas prices may not offer retailers much relief in the months ahead, as shoppers are still seeing personal incomes fall and food prices remain high. In fact, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, as well as warehouse club operators such as Costco Wholesale Corp. remain among the few bright spots as shoppers focus on the lowest prices.

"Consumers are feeling pressured economically," said Stifel Nicolaus & Co. analyst Richard Jaffe. But he added that what's also hurt business is the lack of new trends to excite teens.

"What you have in your closet is certainly adequate. And that's not satisfying for retailers and teens," he added. "The fear is that they stay in flip-flops."

Ken Perkins, president of research company RetailMetrics LLC, agreed that shoppers remain focused on price. "I don't see anything changing anytime soon. Parents are still going to buy for Christmas, but it is definitely going to be less than last year."

As retailers reported their sales results Thursday, most mall-based apparel stores turned in sluggish results. Teen retailers that fared poorly included Wet Seal Inc., Abercrombie & Fitch Co. and American Eagle Outfitters Inc. And high-end retailers Saks Inc. and Nordstrom Inc. posted weaker results as their affluent customers start to feel pinched.

A report from the Labor Department offered more evidence of the weaker job market, a bad sign for consumer spending. The number of workers seeking unemployment benefits jumped unexpectedly last week, reversing three weeks of declines. ANNE D'INNOCENZIO (AP)

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Sunday in The Washington Post



A TASTE OF MEXICO: Hundreds typically dine at this stand at Mexico City's famed food market that offers tasty, cheap fare.

Tortilla Heaven

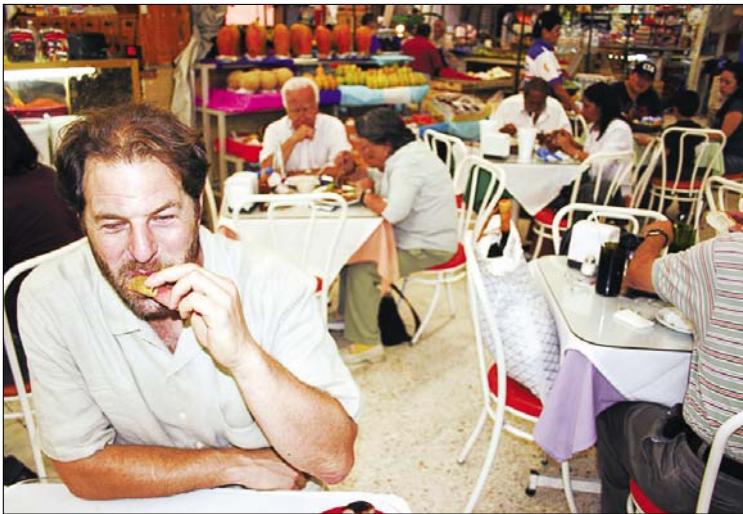
Two foodies find bliss eating quesadillas at a Mexico City market

IN TRAVEL | A cartload of bagged white corn kernels blocked the narrow aisle. A woman in an apron danced to salsa rhythms, shimmying her hips seductively. Half a dozen guys with shopping bags stood still, frowning.

I'd hit gridlock in the diffuse light of El Mercado de la Merced, Mexico City's supersize, bigger-than-life, positively steroid central market. "Just push," my friend Nick urged behind me.

Timidly, I jammed my hip into the small of a man's back, and, presto, we all popped through the bottleneck like a cork launched from a magnum of champagne.

I'd come to La Merced in search of the perfect traditional-market quesadilla. I've been eating in Mexican markets for years, swooning over piles of cilantro-flecked shrimp at the archetypal Tostadas Coyoacan in the market near The Post's bureau in



Transplanted New Yorker Nick Gilman knows where the best food is in Mexico City.

southern Mexico City and gorging on all manner of grilled pork tacos.

But I'd never nailed the consummate quesadilla, a ubiquitous dish, a foundational Mexican treat made all the more complex by its utter simplicity.

I needed help. And that's why I called Nick Gilman. I call Nick the "professional urban dweller." A transplanted New Yorker, he has

lived most of the past 20 years in Mexico and knows this city's hidden nooks. Last year, Nick self-published a book about his obsession — "Good Food in Mexico City: A guide to food stalls, fondas and fine dining" — that has developed a kind of cult following in the foodie world.

I set a fast pace in La Merced, weaving past fragrant stalls piled with garlic and epazote, the pun-

gent Mexican herb that is said to have taken its name from the Aztec words for "stinky animal." But Nick is loitering.

"Look at these!" he calls out, cupping to his nose a strange mushroom that looks a bit like a chanterelle, but denser. "French people would go crazy! So inexpensive."

for more ...

SUNDAY IN TRAVEL

Read the entire account of this culinary trek through Mexico City's central market, along with stories about Apalachicola, Fla., and Hudson, N.Y.

IN The Washington Post

I catch a whiff of grilling meat. We must be close to the hidden quesadilla stand Nick has been telling me about. I press on. And that's when I meet Gerardo Ramirez. He nods approvingly as I plant myself on a plastic stool next to the counter at "Antojitos Doña Celia" — Doña Celia's Snacks — a five-stool stand at the western edge of the market's main building.

The handwritten menu offers quesadillas with brains, quesadillas with stewed pork stomach and quesadillas with pickled pork fat. I am feeling adventurous, but not that adventurous. I opt for a squash-flower quesadilla, and it doesn't disappoint. Nick chooses a quesadilla made with huitlacoche, an inky black corn fungus that smells of truffles and earth, and I'm grateful he lets me have a big bite.

Folded over, my quesadilla is 10 inches long, seared on a comal — a flat, cast-iron cooking surface — and blue, made from blue corn. Inside, the chewy white Oaxacan cheese — think string cheese, but not as dense or as salty — oozes to the edge of the tortilla. The squash flower has been toasted lightly, but not so much that it loses its clean, refreshing glint, a nice complement to the hint of salt in the cheese. I top it with Gerardo's salsa, a silky puree of red chilies, onions and garlic.

"The secret is the cheese — there are only one or two places in the whole city where you can get the real stuff, the real Oaxacan stuff," Gerardo tells me. But I can barely focus. I was in quesadilla nirvana. MANUEL ROIG-FRANZIA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

5 more reasons to read

THESE STORIES AND MORE THIS SUNDAY



→ I Thee Wed

In our wedding issue, we look at a couple who put on a 150-guest extravaganza at the St. Regis Hotel and another who fought against the Wedding Industrial Complex. **MAGAZINE**

→ Read Green

We review three new books on the environmental movement, a wake-up call about going green by columnist Tom Friedman and two on the toxic substances present in every home and nursery. **BOOK WORLD**



→ Three to See?

We preview a trio of new series: "Fringe," "Privileged" and "Do Not Disturb," above. **TV WEEK**

→ Fresh Advice

We offer 15 tips to college freshmen coming to the city so they don't seem like dweebs or, worse yet, tourists.

SUNDAY SOURCE

→ Going Nowhere

The 2008 BMW X6 xDrive35i Sports Activity Coupe tries to merge the sports car, the SUV and the economy car — and fails on all counts. **CARS**

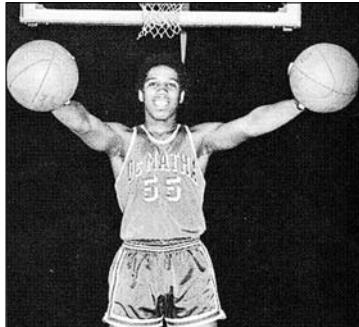
Sports Weekend

NFL

The Big 'Boy': With a full season under his belt, a lot is expected of Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo this year | 15



TV Lineup



HANDOUT

Dematha product Adrian Dantley will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Friday.

friday

7 P.M. Navy plays against Ball State. ESPN

7 P.M. The Orioles start a 10-game meaningless homestand with a series against the Athletics. MASN2

7:30 P.M. Locals Adrian Dantley and Patrick Ewing are among those being inducted into the basketball Hall of Fame this weekend. ESPN Classic

saturday

3:30 P.M. The Oregon State-Penn State thriller makes the regional coverage on Saturday. ABC

7 P.M. Maryland probably won't have too much trouble with Middle Tennessee State. CSN

10 P.M. D.C. United travels to San Jose this weekend to play an MLS match a couple days after winning the U.S. Open Cup. CSN

sunday

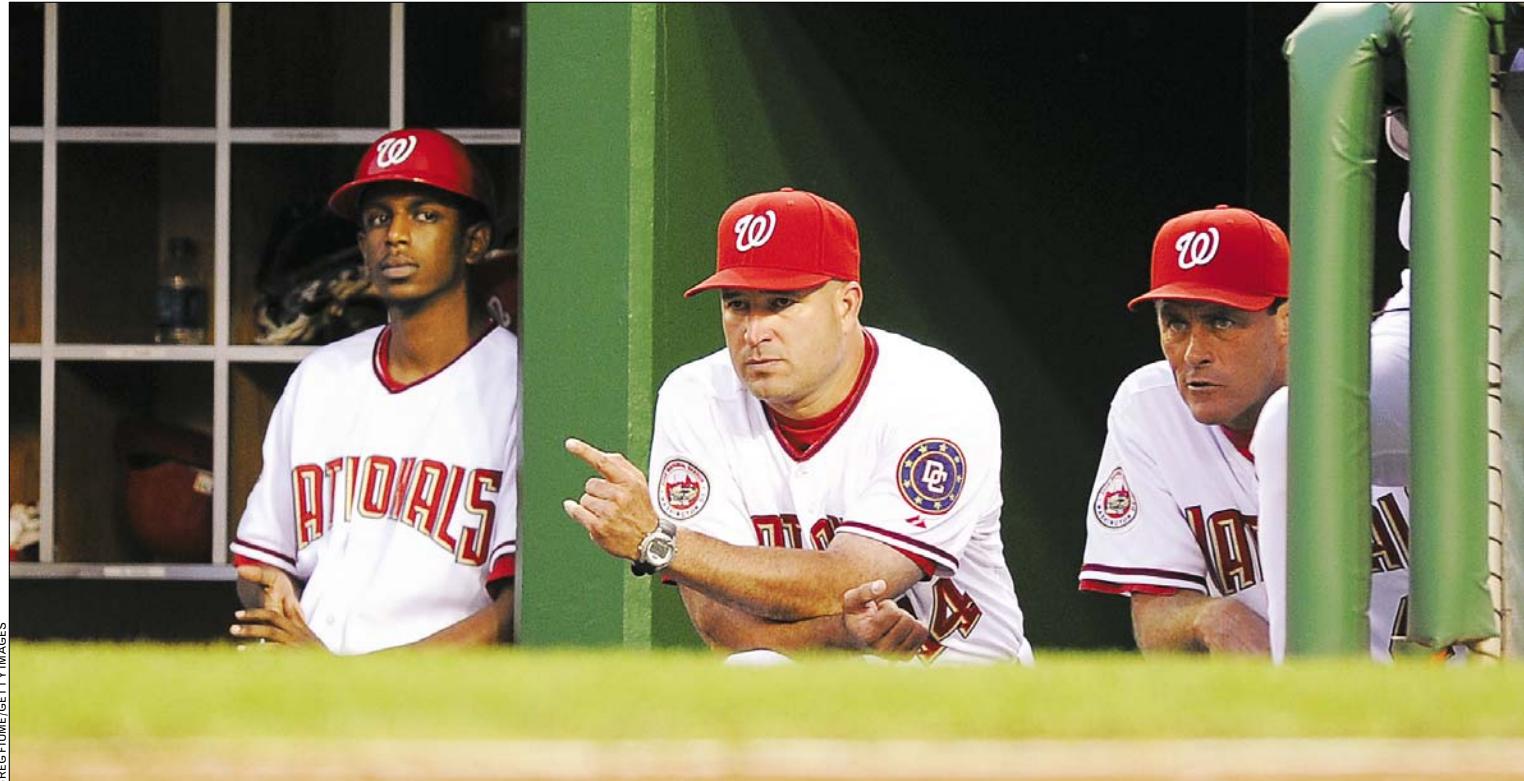
1 P.M. The first Sunday of football season kicks off with the Rams visiting the Eagles and Brett Favre's Jets playing the guy he replaced, Chad Pennington, and Miami. FOX/CBS

4 P.M. Cleveland was last year's surprise. It gets a tough test in week 1, hosting the Cowboys. FOX

4 P.M. The last Grand Slam of the year concludes on Sunday. Will it be Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or someone else? CBS

8 P.M. The Colts show off their new stadium against the Bears on Sunday night. NBC

8 P.M. The Phillies and the Mets fight for the NL East this weekend. ESPN



Manny Acta's Nationals have digressed from last year, when they were expected to lose 100 games and avoided the historic number. This year, they may not be so lucky.

A Century Team?

Nationals must play better than they have to avoid 100-loss year

NATIONALS | A year ago, the prognosticators said the Washington Nationals would be a historically bad team. They weren't.

This year, the Nats were supposed to be an even more improved squad. They have not been.

Unable to do much as threaten to climb out of the National League East cellar, the team has but one statistical milestone remaining on the radar: 100 losses. The Nationals (54-86 through Wednesday) are fighting with every bit of pride they have to avoid it.

"I really don't want to do it," manager Manny Acta said. "I really don't

want to. I can always step back and say I'm not going to be the first one or the last one, and greater coaches than myself have lost 100. But I really don't want to do it, and I think we're going to push hard and try to win as many games as we can."

Through 140 contests, the Nats have won 39 percent of their games. To avoid the century mark, they must win nine of their final 22 games, a winning percentage of .409.

The last time a team lost 100 games was 2006, when the small-market Tampa Bay Devil Rays (101) and the Kansas City Royals (100) both did so. It's not a death knell for a franchise. The Rays are the improbable leaders in the American League East this season. The Detroit Tigers lost 119 games in 2003 but were in

the World Series by 2006.

Still, it's a badge of dishonor that can linger over a team and haunt players throughout the winter months. As the season is winding down, Acta has opted not to use it as a motivating tool, not

them better. But those are things that I keep personal inside of me. Like last year, trying to win more than the 35 games that everybody was saying we were going to win. I don't come out publicly and say all of that."

Well into August, it seemed that the Nationals would lose 100 games easily. Even hitting 110 losses was not out of the question. But Ryan Zimmerman and Elijah Dukes got healthy, and Cristian Guzman got hot, and the team finished an 8-1 homestand on Wednesday. They still could hit triple-digit losses, but they're putting up a fight.

"That's a round number that's in front of us," Acta said. "Regardless of how many games are left, obviously, you don't want to be part of that." DEREK TURNER

BASEBALL | No Support Fewer than 600 people showed up to watch the Marlins beat the Braves 5-3 on Wednesday — and that was about 200 more than Florida reliever Joe Nelson had predicted during a pregame bet with teammates. While the official attendance was 11,211, the



ballpark was so quiet that home-plate chatter could be heard. It was the smallest crowd since 375 showed up last Sept. 13. Florida began the day eight games behind the Mets in the NL East. The Marlins think they still have a chance, although their fans appear to have already conceded. (AP)

Maryland Turns to Turner

Junior gets his shot at running the offense after Steffy goes down

TERPS FOOTBALL | Chris Turner has what he wants, but it's not how he wanted it.

The junior quarterback entered fall practice as the presumed favorite to be Maryland's starting quarterback. Things didn't go his way. Senior Jordan Steffy was named the starter, and Turner spent two days seriously contemplating transferring to another school.

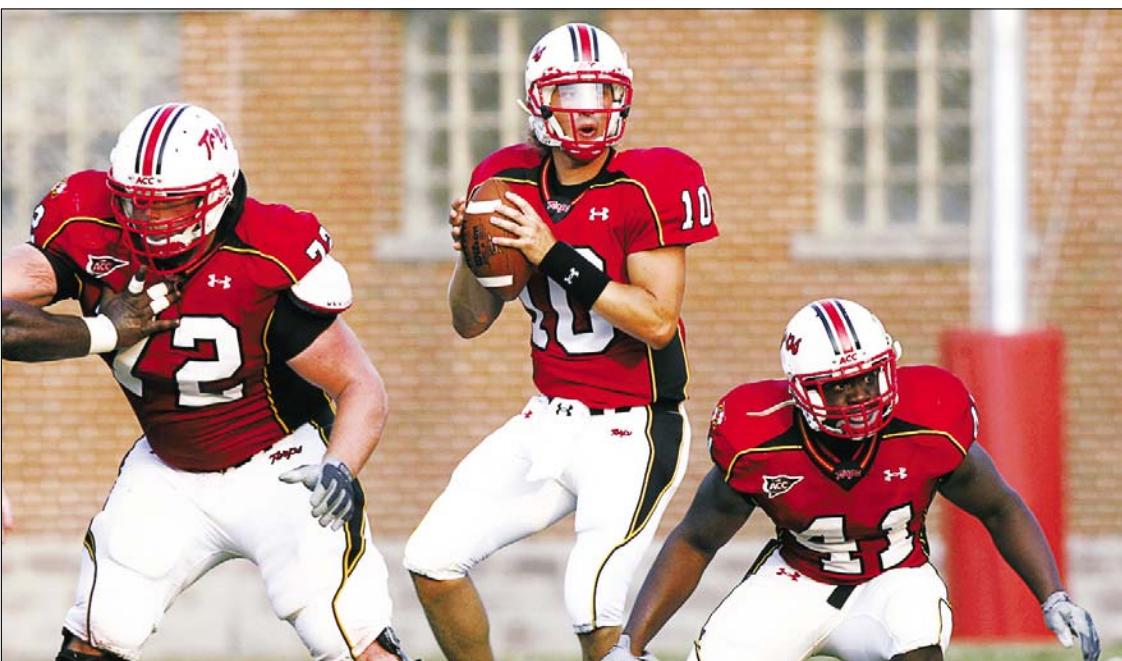
"It was a pretty tough couple of days," the California native said.

Then three-quarters into the season-opening win over Delaware, Steffy went down. It was revealed that a ligament and a piece of bone had been pulled away from the bone on Steffy's throwing hand. He'll miss at least the next three weeks and will require offseason surgery.

Coach Ralph Friedgen announced Wednesday that Turner would start Saturday at Middle Tennessee State and athletic junior Josh Portis would also play. The coach, who in recent weeks had praised Steffy often and enthusiastically, was less than effusive when asked how Turner had performed in practice.

"He's been OK," Friedgen said.

And so Turner, who helped the Terrapins to victories over two Top 10 teams last season, returns to a unique situation. When Turner was made the backup, Friedgen said an informal poll of players



Junior Chris Turner, center, will take over as Maryland's starting quarterback this Saturday against Middle Tennessee State.

JOEL RICHARDSON/TWP

CROWDS TOUGH ON STEFFY

Both Turner and Friedgen criticized Byrd Stadium fans this week for their harsh treatment of Jordan Steffy during last week's 14-7 win over Delaware:



→ Steffy was 10-for-18 for 115 yards and two INTs. The home fans loudly booed his every misstep and at one point joined in a chant of "We want Turner." "I heard it, and it bothered me," Turner said. "I'm a little ashamed of it. I can't control what they do. I wish they didn't." Steffy's career at Maryland has been marked by injuries and inconsistent play. But he's received a bachelor's degree and is pursuing a master's. He's a Special Olympics volunteer, and he's

already founded a children's charity. "Some of those people who are booing him would love to have their children be like Jordan Steffy," Friedgen said.

had revealed two-thirds preferred Steffy as starter.

"That may have hurt him a little

bit," center Edwin Williams said. "Right now, it's his opportunity to come back and do what he has to

do and make the best of it."

Williams insisted that the team has confidence in both quarterbacks and the switch changes the offensive approach very little. In relief of Steffy last week, he completed one of three passes for 11 yards.

"It's hard," he said. "It's almost like you didn't earn it. It's almost like you don't deserve it."

But it's his job now. And he'll be counted on to supply the passing attack to match the running game, which racked up 271 yards on the ground in the opener.

"It's been a roller coaster, for sure," he said. "I don't know. Here I am." DEREK TURNER

Week of Potential Pitfalls

There aren't premier games this weekend but maybe some upsets

COLLEGE PICKS | The Saturday before college football's first big Saturday is filled with potential pitfalls for teams in the Top 25 and for a few intriguing teams outside the rankings to make a statement. The picks:

→ MIAMI (PLUS 21.5) at NO. 5 FLORIDA. The Gators expect injured WR Percy



East Carolina will try to upset a Top 25 team for the second straight week.

Harvin to play, but they might not need him ... FLORIDA, 45-20.

→ NO. 8 WEST VIRGINIA (MINUS 8) at EAST CAROLINA. The Mountaineers have won seven straight against the Pirates ... WEST VIRGINIA, 35-21.

→ SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (PLUS 17.5) at NO. 9 AUBURN. The Tigers hope to have the kinks out of their new spread offense ... AUBURN, 28-14.

→ STANFORD (PLUS 14) at NO. 15 ARIZO-

NA STATE. RB Toby Gerhart gives the Cardinal offense some punch ... ARIZONA STATE, 31-21.

→ NO. 15 BYU (PLUS 9.5) at WASHINGTON. The Huskies couldn't stop Oregon's second- or third-string QB last week ... BYU, 35-28.

→ OREGON STATE (PLUS 16.5) at NO. 19 PENN STATE. The Beavers are trying to avoid their first 0-2 start since 2004 ... PENN STATE, 27-20.

→ MISSISSIPPI (PLUS 8) at NO. 20 WAKE FOREST. The ACC's image can't afford another loss to the SEC ... MISSISSIPPI, 27-24. RALPH D. RUSSO (AP)

Swengali

TENNIS | BY MATT SWENSON

Federer Is More Fun as Underdog

ROGER FEDERER USED TO make it look too easy.

During his prime, most of his matches were boring unless you studied the majesty of his ground-strokes — which is about as exciting as NFL preseason games.

Now, though, it isn't so easy for Federer. This past year, he's become the crafty veteran who must win with his brains more than with his skills.

Not that Federer has fallen off the map, but Rafael Nadal is considered the best player in the world.

Federer, at the ancient age of 27, has yet to win a major this year and has lost a whopping 12 times on the ATP tour — and needed five sets to defeat Igor

With his skills dulled, Federer seems more human. His desire is more evident the harder it gets.

Andreev (who?) Tuesday at the U.S. Open.

The funny thing is that as Federer has worsened — we should all slip and still be second best in the world at our jobs — I've come to admire him more.

I first noticed this at Wimbledon, when the former No. 1 had no business forcing a fifth set against Nadal, let alone pushing the championship to legendary status.

With his skills dulled, Federer seems more human. His desire is more evident the harder it gets for him to play at a high level. It reminds you just how great he was, even though it was boring to watch.

On Thursday, Federer kept his quest for a fifth U.S. Open title alive. I hope he gets it. The underdog is great to cheer for, especially when he used to be the top dog.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

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THIS PRAYER IS NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL. THE PERSON MUST SAY THIS PRAYER FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS. AFTER THREE DAYS THE REQUEST WILL BE GRANTED.

14 | EXPRESS | 09.05.2008 | FRIDAY

Weekend Sports



Landon Donovan, left, and Eddie Lewis walk off the practice field earlier this week.

Healthy Adult Volunteers Needed

The National Institute of Mental Health is conducting a psychopharmacology study of mild stress and memory. Participants will be interviewed and will complete a series of tasks during which physiological functioning will be recorded. Volunteers must be between the ages of 18-50.

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WeekendPass makes the weekend pulse.

Every Thursday in Express.



A publication of The Washington Post

Buckeyes' Wells Won't Play vs. Ohio

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells will not play when the third-ranked Buckeyes take on Ohio on Saturday.

Wells injured his right foot in last weekend's 43-0 victory over Youngstown State. He has not prac-

ticed this week and has spent much of the time wearing a protective boot.

When asked whether he worries that Wells may not be available when the Buckeyes play at No. 1 Southern California on Sept. 13, Tressel added: "No, not at all. Not at all. But that's easy to say today." (AP)

Trickle-Down Expectations

Logic says Cowboys should be good, but Romo brushes off hype

NFL | This time last year, Tony Romo was the cover boy on plenty of pre-season magazines. His love life was gossip-page fodder. And he was hearing his name in the same breath as Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman.

Same as this year, right?

Hardly. Along with the hype were the questions about whether he deserved such accolades, whether this guy who rocketed from nobody to Pro Bowler was a one-year wonder. Heck, even his bosses on the Dallas Cowboys wanted to make sure, withholding a contract extension until they were convinced he was for real.

Romo proved it, all right, setting all sorts of records last season on the way to a 13-3 record, matching the

Late Game

→ The Redskins-Giants NFL season opener ended after Express' deadline. Get in-depth analysis and a look at all the weekend's games | **Today, Sports**

IN **The Washington Post**

most wins in the team's proud history. Although he wound up losing in the playoffs for a second year, Romo secured his spot in the NFL hierarchy, just below the top rung of Peyton Manning and Tom Brady.

Now Romo is preparing for just his second full season as a starter — and his first truly in control.

So, heading into Sunday's opener in Cleveland, he should be primed for bigger, better things.

"I don't know," Romo said Wednesday. "We'll see as the season progresses, I guess. You just have



After a successful season as the team leader, Tony Romo is expected to win.

a better understanding of all the things you're trying to do. Things I had to think about are more second nature in some areas."

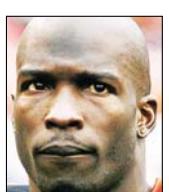
There's reason to believe Romo can pick up where he left off last season. After all, little has changed. Terrell Owens, Jason Witten and Patrick Crayton are his top receiving threats. His entire offensive line would be the same if not for an injury to left guard Kyle Kosier. Marion Barber is now the starting running back, but he got the majority of action last year anyway. Even the offensive coaching staff is mostly intact. Still ...

"If you're lucky enough to win one or two Super Bowls as a quarterback, and let's say hopefully you play 10 years in the league, you've had a pretty successful career, I'm guessing," Romo said. "So, you're going to be disappointed for eight or nine of those years. So, to live and die all the time on strictly winning the Super Bowl, it's just going to make people go nuts." JAIME ARON (AP)

NFL Will Refer To Bengals Star As Ocho Cinco

NFL | The Cincinnati Bengals say No. 85 is officially Ocho Cinco.

The NFL team said Thursday that it will refer to the receiver formerly known as Chad Johnson by his new legal name, Chad Ocho Cinco, in all club business. That includes the back of his jersey for Sunday's season opener at Baltimore.

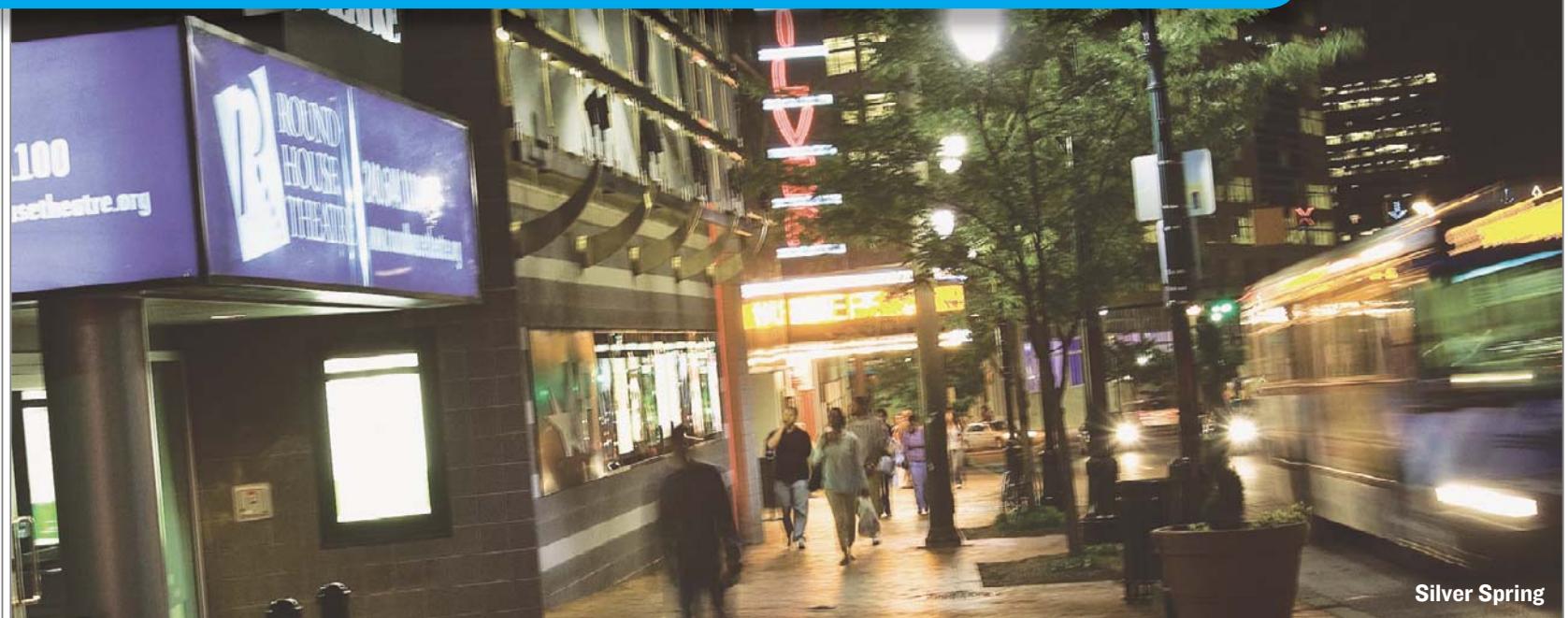


Ocho Cinco

Johnson told The Associated Press that he wants to be called by his new name but declined to talk about it any further. The Miami native used "ocho cinco" in 2006 as part of the NFL's Hispanic Heritage month. It means "eight five" in Spanish. He changed his name last month in Broward County, Fla. (AP)



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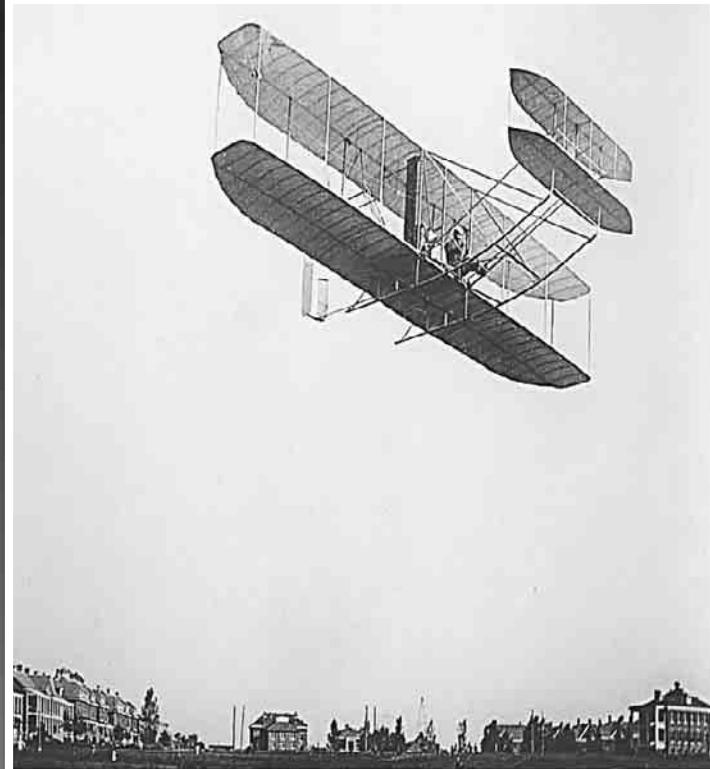
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express

Frustration With Mystics Shows

Some die-hard fans say they have some advice for the struggling team

MYSTICS | It wasn't long ago that team president Sheila Johnson ripped her team for not improving throughout 11 seasons in the league. But she's not the only one offering scathing criticism of the club.

At the 10-19 Mystics' most recent home game — another loss — the team played in front of a sea of empty seats. Still, diehard season-ticket-holders showed up for the team, as they have for 11 years, nearly all of which have been dismal. Shirley Evans, a "season-ticket-holder since day one," remarked that perhaps the team's management should "consult the fans and see what they say." After all, "You can't do any worse."

That probably won't happen, but the courtside clique, which sits a few rows up from the court for most games, had plenty of opinions to offer. Like interim coach Jessie Kenlaw, they see the Mystics' most glaring weakness as the absence of a solid point guard. "When they traded away Temeka Johnson, we were scratching our heads," Bill Ritchie said. "She's now starting for L.A."

Ritchie's comment points to the performance of GM Linda Hargrove. These fans almost universally gave Hargrove poor marks, saying she shuffles the team's lineup too often, making questionable trade after trade.

"Too many changes — it's dis-



KATHERINE FREY/TWP
Many fans said they were disappointed in the trading of Taj McWilliams-Franklin.

ruptive and makes it very hard for them to be cohesive. Your team can't come together if you're constantly changing the personnel," said Kim Sawyer.

Most of these season-ticket-holders said they'd support the team, which plays its second-to-last home game of the year on Saturday against the Shock, no matter what — largely due to a desire to support the WNBA and women's sports in general. But Ritchie spoke for a handful when he said, "I'm debating whether I'm going to get tickets next year. This is supposed to be fun, and I'm not enjoying it. I understand teams have ups and downs. However, we've been down and down — lower and lower and lower. So I don't have the same enthusiasm." **TIM FOLLOWS**

Federer Reaches U.S. Open Semis

TENNIS | Roger Federer edged 130th-ranked qualifier Gilles Muller 7-6 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (5) at the U.S. Open on Thursday to reach the semifinals for the 18th consecutive Grand Slam tournament. It was Federer's 32nd victory in a row at Flushing Meadows, where he has won the past four championships.

Despite playing a man who never before was past the third round at

a major event, Federer had some trouble. He wasted six set points in the opener and only went 1-for-11 on break-point chances.

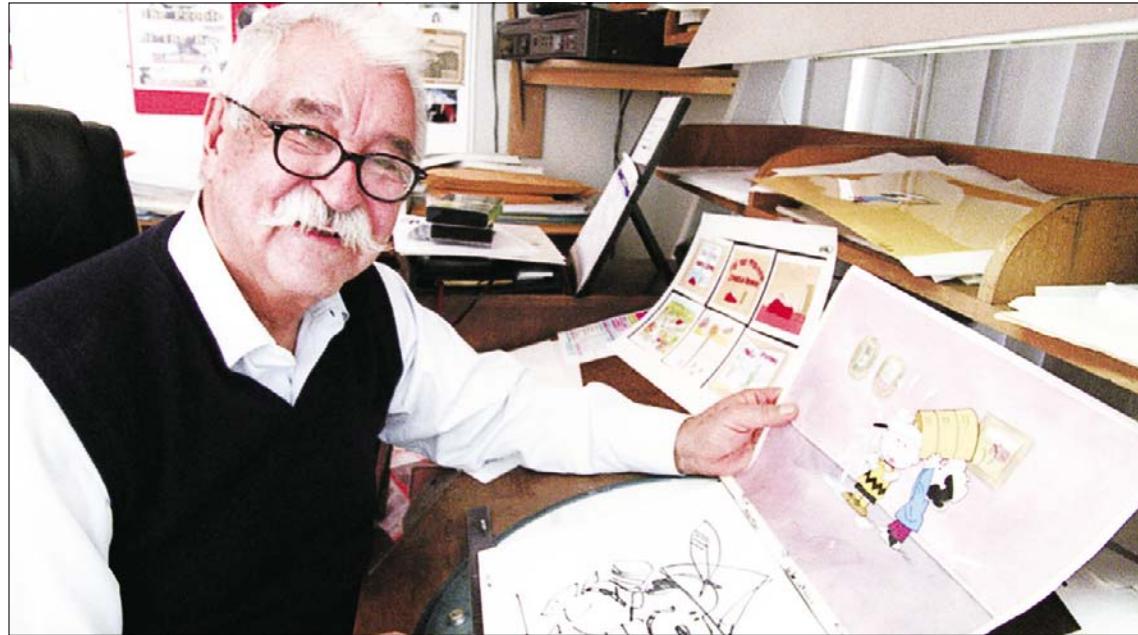
"Today was particularly difficult — the sun, the wind, and he's been serving great," Federer said. "I didn't get that many opportunities."

No other man has played in more than 10 major semifinals in a row. Bidding for a 13th Grand Slam title, Federer will meet No. 3 Novak Djokovic or No. 8 Andy Roddick in the semifinals. Djokovic and Roddick were to play Thursday night. (AP)

**ELECTRONICA**

Take that, Mickey: Wearing a giant red mouse head, Deadmau5 will freak you out and get you dancing at Ibiza on Saturday night. | 19

Entertainment Weekend



SNOOPY-ING AROUND: Bill Melendez gave life to "Peanuts" characters in many TV specials, such as "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

A Good Man

Animator of 'Peanuts' television specials Bill Melendez dies

REMEMBERED | Bill Melendez — the animator who gave life to Snoopy, Charlie Brown and other "Peanuts" characters in scores of movies and TV specials — has died. He was 91.

Melendez died of natural causes

Tuesday at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, Calif., according to publicist Amy Goldsmith.

Melendez's nearly seven decades as a professional animator began in 1938 when he was hired by Walt Disney Studios and worked on Mickey Mouse cartoons and classic animated features such as "Pinocchio" and "Fantasia."

He went on to animate TV specials such as "A Charlie Brown

Christmas" and was the voice of Snoopy, who never spoke intelligible words but issued expressive howls, sighs and sobs.

Melendez was born in 1916 in Hermosillo in the Mexican state of Sonora. He moved with his family to Arizona in 1928 and then to Los Angeles in the 1930s, attending the Chouinard Art Institute.

Melendez took part in a strike that led to the unionization of Dis-

ney artists in 1941 and later moved to Warner Bros., where he worked on Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig and Daffy Duck shorts.

In 1948, Melendez left Warner Bros. and over the next 15 years worked as a director and producer on more than 1,000 commercials and movies for United Productions of America, Playhouse Pictures and John Sutherland Productions.

At UPA, he helped animate "Gerald McBoing-Boing," which won the 1951 Academy Award for best cartoon short.

Melendez met "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz in 1959 while creating Ford Motor Co. TV commercials featuring Peanuts characters.

The two became friends, and Melendez became the only person Schulz authorized to animate his characters.

Melendez founded his own company in 1964 and with his partner Lee Mendelson went on to produce, direct or animate about 70 "Peanuts" TV specials, four movies and hundreds of commercials.

The first special was 1965's "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The show reportedly worried CBS because it broke so much new ground for a cartoon: It lacked a laugh track, used real children as voice actors and had a jazz score.

However, the show was a ratings success and has gone on to become a Christmastime perennial.

In all, his productions earned 19 Emmy nominations, including six awards. (AP)



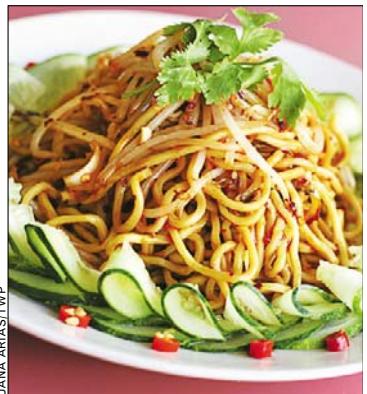
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My girlfriend and I went to the National Arboretum, and she went gonzo over the bonsai museum. Any idea where to get the tiny trees so she can start her own bonsai?

I'm sure a lot of nurseries have bonsai, and I'm fairly certain I've seen them at Garden District and Johnson's, so you may want to start with one of those.

→ Garden District, 1801 14th St. NW; 202-797-9005. (Dupont Circle)

→ Johnson's Flower & Garden Center, 4200 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-244-6100. (Tenleytown-AU)



Spicy Chinese food is the order of the day at Great Wall Szechuan House.

My dad is coming to town next weekend, and he considers himself a Chinese food connoisseur. I know that D.C. is not known for its Chinese food, but if I'm hoping to impress, where would you recommend?

I like Great Wall for its spicy dishes, so that's an option that's decidedly lacking in atmosphere. Wanna do dim sum? Try Pacifica Cafe in Gaithersburg.

→ Great Wall Szechuan House, 1527 14th St. NW; 202-797-8888. (U St.-Cardozo)

→ Pacifica Cafe, 621 Center Point Way, Gaithersburg; 301-519-1488.

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Britney Comes Back – Again

Troubled pop star will kick off the MTV Video Music Awards

DEJA VU | It's Britney, baby, one more time. Despite her train-wreck performance at the MTV Video Music Awards last year, the network confirms Spears will kick off the show once again.

But it won't be a performance. Instead, MTV Networks Music Group President Van Toffler said,

it'll be something "fun and unexpected" on Sunday night's show.

Unexpected is probably the kindest way to describe Spears' performance at last year's VMAs. In what was heavily promoted as the troubled singer's comeback, she instead gave an unfocused, almost unwatchable performance of "Gimme More," one of the many low points in her year of debacles.

So, what made Spears and MTV reunite one more time?

"MTV has long played an impor-



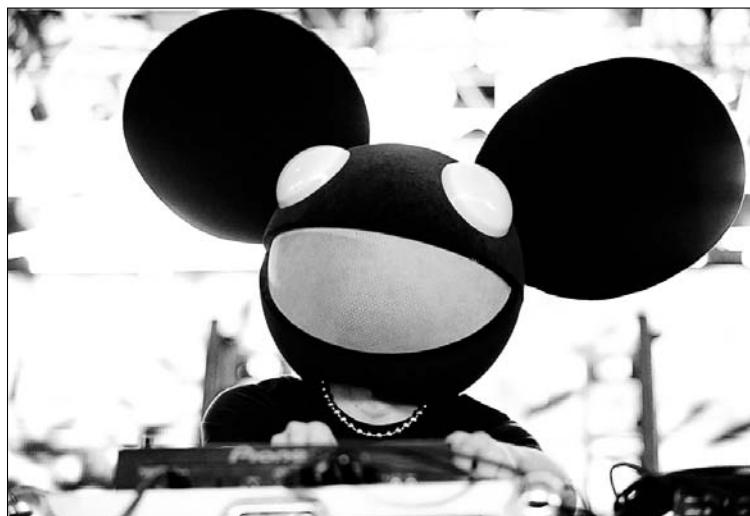
Britney's "unexpected" VMA appearance is guaranteed to include a "y'all."

tant role in my career. How can I not be there to kick off their 25th VMAs? I'm excited to open the entire show, to say hi to my fans and to be nominated," Spears said in a statement.

"I think, for Britney, people are rooting for her, and she's really on the road to recovery," Toffler said, noting that MTV had nominated her for three VMAs, including video of the year, for her clip "Piece of Me." "It feels like it's her year."

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY (AP)

Entertainment Weekend



D-E-A-D-M-A-U ... 5? Deadmau5 might be Mickey's evil twin brother, but he rocks.

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

"Citizen Kane" was a groundbreaking movie because of the lighting and camera angles used by director Orson Welles. "2001: A Space Odyssey" was groundbreaking for its special effects and dramatic use of people in ape suits. "Blow-Up" was groundbreaking for its nudity. Take that, deep focus! Michael Antonioni's 1966 film was the first British movie to showcase full-frontal nudity, making the world safe for the likes of "Showgirls." Thanks? It's one of those mid-'60s films that's more about aesthetic pleasure than any sort of great story to tell, but the capturing of mod culture and the celebrity cameos have helped make it a cult favorite. It screens tonight at AFI Silver Theatre with a post-film dance party featuring DJs and themed photo shoots. Just try to keep your clothes on. The screening starts at 9:30 p.m.; the party starts at 11 p.m.

SATURDAY

It's hard to overestimate the significance of Bally Sagoo to the whole bhangra scene. When he was coming of age in Britain in the '80s, Indians had already become a significant immigrant demographic, but black music from the United States and the Caribbean held the cultural clout. While immersing himself in hip-hop and soul, Sagoo was also experiment-

ing with incorporating traditional Indian music into his club sets. It didn't take long before his remixing touch reached an audience hungry to hear a new spin on the music it was raised on. He'll have people bouncing their shoulders with their hands to the ceiling at MCCXXIII tonight. Advance tickets are available at Desicloud.com.

Your best bet for getting down to thumping electro beats is to check out Deadmau5 at Ibiza tonight. Deadmau5 (it's pronounced Dead Mouse) is Canadian Joel Zimmerman, and he had no problem working the crowd into a frenzy during a midday set a few weeks ago, so we'd expect him to do the same at a late hour on a Saturday night. This isn't electronic music to chill out to or have a casual drink over. You guzzle some water and then go sweat it all out on the dance floor.

SUNDAY

The Slackers isn't a ska band, OK? Just because the band has a horn section and plays music with Jamaican roots and came to prominence in the late-'90s, when ska had its brief dalliance with the mainstream, doesn't make it so. Rocksteady, the Jamaican music that led to ska, would be a more accurate term, but much of the group's appeal is that one genre doesn't do it justice. Reggae, jazz, rocksteady, garage rock — it's all part of the Slackers' mix. The New York group has been serving up its tasty stew of sounds for more than 15 years — before the ska boom, during it, after it. Catch them at the State Theatre.

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Weekend | Entertainment



FLATTERING TITLE: Only the most easily amused will find humor in "Disaster Movie."

Now Playing

BABYLON A.D. (PG-13, 90 minutes)

Somewhere in this mess is a thriller, but it got lost in the translation from a French novel. The film is in English, but not in any coherent way. Vin Diesel stars as a mercenary named Toorop in this futuristic yarn spun in a war-ravaged world. He lives in Russia, having lost his U.S. citizenship. There are a number of impressive visuals, and Diesel, as usual, is fun to watch, but the film is a train wreck. (JH)

BOTTLE SHOCK (PG-13, 103 minutes)

Perhaps the film should have been called "The Grapes of Froth," because it tells such a happy story: how the vintners of Napa Valley won the blind tasting known as the Judgment of Paris in 1976 and put their little piece of California paradise on the world wine stage for all time. What a movie: booze, Alan Rickman and really cool pickup trucks. (SH)

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED (PG-13, 135 minutes)

This feature-length version of Evelyn Waugh's tale of homosexuality, class envy, God and redemption must highlight certain themes, de-emphasizing others for the sake of brevity. Director Julian Jarrold's take on the idea-rich novel has become a more narrowly focused story of a love triangle. At the apex stands Charles Ryder (Matthew Goode), a middle-class English atheist who becomes infatuated with the family of Sebastian Flyte (Ben

Wishaw), an alcoholic, gay Catholic aristocrat who befriends Charles while the two are students at Oxford. In the other corner is Sebastian's sister Julia (Hayley Atwell), a morose beauty with whom Charles begins a doomed affair. (MO)

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13, 152 minutes)

Heath Ledger's performance is a subtle, nuanced piece of acting so powerful it banishes all memories of the handsome Aussie behind it. He's supple of body and expressive with only his eyes, and his voice has undulations of irony and mockery and psychopathology. But when the Joker is absent, the film loses most of its energy and becomes nothing but a pretty-boy face-off between Christian Bale (Batman) and Aaron Eckhart. (SH)

DEATH RACE (R, 89 minutes)

It may not be possible to make a film with less plot and more action without catalyzing some drastic change in the whole form, like adding that disastrous last dollop of butter to a delicate French sauce. If a movie could drag its knuckles on the ground, this one would leave eight little tracks in the sand. The film, starring Jason Statham as an ex-con, is supposedly based on the 1975 cult favorite "Death Race 2000," which involved a savage cross-country road rally in heavily armored cars. It isn't so much a movie as a superheated, highly conductive substance for the pure transmission of masculine aggression. (PK)

DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13, 90 minutes)

This is the latest juvenile attempt by writers/directors Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer to milk laughs out of the formulas used in their "Scary Movie," "Date Movie" and "Epic Movie." The thread that tries to bind together all of the

Now Playing

short comedy ideas has All-American Will (Matt Lanter) trying to get to his girlfriend (Vanessa Minnillo) when the end of the world starts. He's joined on his quest by Calvin (G. Thang), who has less acting abilities than a coma patient. Why would anyone pay to see material they have been able to watch for free for years? (MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS)

FLY ME TO THE MOON (G, 90 minutes) The first animated movie created specifically for the 3-D format, "Fly" boasts knock-your-socks-off visuals. If only the story lived up to the special effects. Nat, IQ and Scooter (voices of Trevor Gagnon, Philip Daniel Bolden and David Gore) are juvenile houseflies with big dreams, fueled largely by the tall tales of Nat's grandfather (Christopher Lloyd), who rode with Amelia Earhart dur-



WE DETECT A PATTERN: Don Cheadle, left, and Said Taghmaoui, right, star in "Traitor," another us-versus-them terrorist flick.

ing her solo transatlantic flight. Boys being boys—even when they're the size of raisins—they sneak onto the 1969 spacecraft carrying Neil Armstrong and crew to the moon. Needless to say, something goes wrong. (MO)

FROZEN RIVER (R, 97 MINUTES) As Ray Eddy, a single mother of two living in a trailer in upstate New York, Melissa Leo delivers a tough, utterly mesmerizing performance as a woman whose desperation to do right by her kids sends her on a journey all the more astonishing for being so believable. Abandoned by her husband, a compulsive gambler, and ignored for a promotion at the dollar store where she works, Ray crosses paths with Lila (Misty Upham), who lives on the nearby Mohawk reservation. To earn quick money, Lila persuades Ray to drive illegal immigrants across a frozen river, which won't get them into trouble as long as they stay on the rez. It comes

Continued on page 22

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Discussion with Laurence Tribe
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Weekend Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 21

as no shock when events spiral out of the women's control. Leo and Upham effortlessly convey the subtleties of their characters' tentative friendship, but "Frozen River" is at its best when it captures the lengths to which parents will go for their kids — and what they ask of them. (AH)

HAMLET 2 (R, 92 minutes) This dazzling little comedy seems, at first glance, to be having a lot of fun with the stock figures of the high school musical and inspirational teacher flicks. But Noah Saperstein, a diminutive, ninth-grade drama critic played by Shea Pepe, quotes French literary critic Roland Barthes and all but begs you to take the film seriously as social commentary. Saperstein's devastating reviews target Dana Marschz (Steve Coogan), a hapless man-child and talentless actor spinning out the tail end of his high school drama fan-

tasies into incipient middle age. (PK)

HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13, 98 minutes) Anna Faris plays Shelley, who has just aged out of her right to residency at the Playboy Mansion. She's 27 ("59 in Bunny years!"). And she will never realize her lifelong dream — to be a centerfold. So, poor Shelley is homeless, or she is until she recognizes her tribe, wandering into another mansion. But she can't become a shallow, dizzy sorority girl without enrolling. She can, however, become house mother to the Zekes, the lowliest sorority on campus, where misfits, social lepers, nerds and losers reside. This film from the Adam Sandler fun factory starts with a series of obnoxious, dated stereotypes and never quite flips them into something positive. (ORLANDO SENTINEL)

MAMMA MIA! (PG-13, 103 minutes) The brassy, bawdy musical presents itself as a piece of clever counter-programming to this summer's surfeit of pounding, effects-driven comic-book movies. But filmgoers are likely to feel just as bludgeoned, in this case, by an

Abba-bomb wrapped in a huge turquoise-colored feather boa. That's not to say that fun isn't to be had; Streep is a wonderment, belting her way to another winning performance. (AH)

MAN ON WIRE (PG-13, 94 minutes) This documentary opens with a grainy black-and-white reenactment of the events of Aug. 7, 1974, when French high-wire artist Philippe Petit and a group of friends famously pulled off a coup at the newly built World Trade Center. The participants narrate what's happening on-screen, and the story takes on the taut urgency of a thriller. (AH)

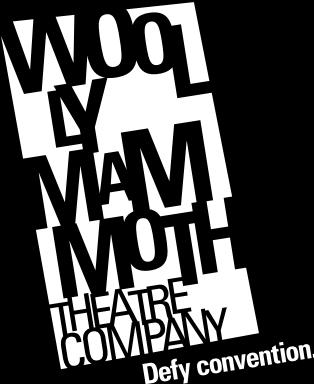
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13, 113 minutes) Tiresome and messy, director Rob Cohen waters the film down to globs of plot, strung between shapeless action sequences and humorless repartee. Archaeologist/tomb-raider Rick O'Connell (Brendan Fraser) and his adventurer-writer wife, Evelyn (Maria Bello), live in bored retirement in 1946 England. They're thrilled when the government tasks them to deliver

a priceless gem to a Shanghai museum. Meanwhile, their son, Alex (Luke Ford), has gone on a dig in China, discovering the emperor's mummy encased in a huge terra-cotta sculpture. (JH)

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R, 113 minutes) Judd Apatow's latest production stars co-writer Seth Rogen as loser Dale Denton, a process-server with a girlfriend who's still in high school and a lifestyle that revolves around two things: getting wasted and staying wasted. When Dale witnesses a brutal crime, he runs straight to his dealer, Saul (James Franco), and soon the two are on the lam from corrupt police, a cold-blooded drug kingpin and members of a ruthless Asian gang. (AH)

THE ROCKER (PG-13, 102 minutes) Rainn Wilson plays Robert "Fish" Fishman, a drummer fired by the group Vesuvius when a music exec decides his own wannabe son is a better skins-pounder. Vesuvius goes on to greatness, and Fish goes on to bitter nothing-

Continued on page 24



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Stuart fights to keep the lid on his mother's and aunts' simmering angst. But the family's secrets channel themselves into a bizarre shapeshifter that guzzles soda and chatters German verse. Friedrich Schiller's classic tale of warring queens inspires a macabre romp into all that suburban America tries to repress.

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KUNG FU PANDA: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG) 7:25,
9:50
SPACE STATION 3D (NR-NOT RATED) 1:00, 4:00

DIGITAL 3D

FLY ME TO THE MOON 3-D (G) 12:05, 2:15, 7:05
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) 4:40,
9:20, 11:50

BANGKOK DANGEROUS (R) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:45, 2:20, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00,
8:00, 9:40, 10:50, 12:15

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) (10:25 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45

COLLEGE (R) (9:45 @ \$6), 11:55, 12:15

DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) (10:20 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:10, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15

TRAITOR (PG13) (10:35 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:05, 7:30, 10:05

DEATH RACE (R) (10:55 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:10, 6:50, 7:20, 9:20, 9:50, 12:05, 22:00

THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) (11:55 @ \$6), 2:30, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (11:25 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20

MIRRORS (R) 12:00, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:45

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (11:40 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:40

TROPIC THUNDER (R) (12:10, 1:15, 2:40, 4:35, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50,
9:40, 10:25, 12:15)

THE DARK KNIGHT (R) (12:10, 2:40, 4:10, 7:50, 10:25)

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) (12:15, 2:15, 5:30, 8:10, 10:55)

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG13) (10:15 @ \$6),
1:10, 4:10

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG13) (12:05, 2:55,
5:35, 8:25, 11:05)

STEP BROTHERS (R) (1:05, 5:50, 10:30)

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) (10:10 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:55, 7:20, 8:20, 10:35, 11:35

MAMMA MIA! (PG13) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:55

WALL-E (E) (10:40 @ \$6), 2:05, 4:30

AMC SELECT

VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG13) 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

HAMLET 2 (R) (10:40 @ \$6), 8:20, 10:00

AMC SELECT

AMC SELECT</

Weekend Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 22

ness. He's asked to sub as drummer in a garage band on prom night—he's 20 years older than his bandmates, and don't you just know it, they turn out to have a great sound. (ORLANDO SENTINEL)

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG-13, 117 MINUTES) For all its flaws and its flagrant flaunting of credulity, the film has four very good things going for it: Alexis Bledel (Lena), America Ferrera (Carmen), Blake Lively (Bridget) and Amber Tamblyn (Tibby). The film has four distinct story lines, held loosely together by the peripatetic pants, which get FedExed around the globe. (TW)

STEP BROTHERS (R, 93 minutes) Brennan Huff (Will Ferrell) and Dale Doback (John C. Reilly) are capital-L losers who live with their single parents, who then meet, fall in love and a few weeks later get married. Thus Dale and Brennan meet and immediately hate each other. (SH)

TROPIC THUNDER (R, 111 minutes) In this rude, crude, over-the-top satire



RISKY BUSINESS: Desperate women turn to immigrant smuggling in "Frozen River."

about rude, crude, over-the-top action movies, Ben Stiller makes an ambitious and surprisingly effective bid to skewer Hollywood's darker excesses. The movie-within-the-movie, the eponymous "Tropic Thunder" is an adaptation of a Vietnam War memoir by Four Leaf Tayback (Nick Nolte). He's played by Tugg Speedman (Stiller), whose most critically acclaimed performance so far has been as a developmentally challenged farm boy in "Simple Jack." Speedman's co-star is five-time Oscar winner Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey, Jr.), who has undergone a "pigmentation augmentation operation" to play his black character. (AH)

TRAITOR (PG-13, 114 minutes) Once again there are terrorists in our midst, and once again they are Muslims, hiding in sleeper cells, waiting to cause mayhem. Heroic action is needed. To save us from the terrorists? More pressing, to save us from such films as this long-winded thriller, starring Don Cheadle as a conflicted Muslim who is either an undercover U.S. operative, a ruthless killer or both. (PK)

VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13,

96 minutes) Life is still meaningless, but this time we get the message from Spain's two best (and best-looking) actors, Javier Bardem and Penélope Cruz, who play Juan Antonio and Maria Elena, two divorced painters who have driven each other to attempted homicide. Their explosive relationship is reignited by Scarlett Johansson, who enters their lives as Cristina, an American spending her summer in Barcelona. (DZ)

WALL-E (G, 97 minutes) Set in a future in which the only wildlife is the cockroach, "WALL-E" refers to our hero: a Waste Allocation Load Lifter, Earth class. He has been left behind to toil—meanwhile, humankind has been traveling through space for 700 years waiting for Earth to regenerate. The human race has been reduced to obesity, sloth and interactive video screens. This is not the Enchanted Forest. It's too plausible for that. (JA)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

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WE PREDICT KEVIN BACON WILL GUEST-STAR: TNT plans to follow up its successful series "The Closer" with an as-yet-unnamed spin-off. "The Closer" stars Kyra Sedgwick as a tough police officer. No word yet on what the plot will entail.

Television

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

NEXT: 'PIRATE GIRL'

A fairy tale set in modern times, the six-part miniseries **SAMURAI GIRL** (8 p.m. and 9 p.m., Fri., ABC Family, and continuing on Sat. and Sun.) stars Jamie Chung as Heaven, a beautiful foundling whose life is disrupted by fate — and ninjas.

INDIE CRED

Bill Murray portrays a celebrity oceanographer in the quirky and decidedly small 2004 comedy **THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU** (8:30 p.m., Fri., IFC).

POOR PUPPIES

Michael Vick's abused dogs face rehabilitation on **DOGTOWN** (9 p.m., Fri., National Geographic).

NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS

Treadwell mourns a fox cub on **GRIZZLY MAN DIARIES** (9 p.m., Fri., Animal Planet).

A SEXY CLAMBAKE?

Season one concludes with big decisions and a summer-ending clambake



THE GANG'S ALL HERE: Bill Murray, Anjelica Huston, et al in "The Life Aquatic."

on **SWINGTOWN** (10 p.m., Fri., CBS).

SURPRISES

20/20 (10 p.m., Fri., ABC) looks at the dark side of foreign adoptions.

CLASSIC THRILLER

A murderer (Robert Mitchum) posing as a preacher murders an ex-con's widow (Shelly Winters) and hunts her children in the peculiar 1955 fable **THE NIGHT OF THE**

HUNTER (8 p.m., Sat., TCM).

TEARJERKER

Viewers in search of quick tears should not miss **THE LOCATOR** (9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Sat., WE). Troy Dunn has made a career of reconnecting families torn apart by bad divorces and noncommunication.

PTERODACTYL FEVER

A winged reptile attacks a golf course on

PRIMEVAL

(9 p.m., Sat., BBC America). **ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA** Coeds spend the night in an abandoned asylum in the 2005 shocker **DEATH TUNNEL** (9 p.m., Sat., Sci Fi).

'TWILIGHT'? NO.

After his smart, nuanced and wonderfully detailed funeral-parlor comedy "Six Feet Under," you had to wonder what creator Alan Ball would do next. Ball's new series, **TRUE BLOOD** (9 p.m., Sun., HBO), a vampire romance, is a ghastly mess. It's an ambitious mess, but ghastly nonetheless.

BUCKLE UP

ICE ROAD TRUCKERS (9 p.m., Sunday, History) wraps up its second season.

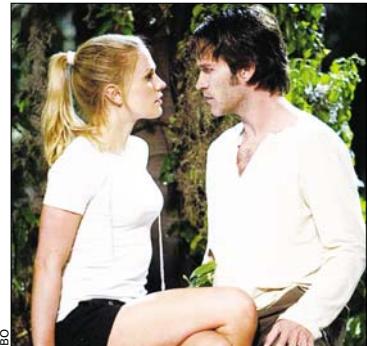
WITH MICHAEL PHELPS!

Comedian Russell Brand hosts the **2008 MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS** (9 p.m., Sun., MTV).

SMILE, BABY

TLC offers two looks at the exotic, competitive world of child pageants, **PAINTED BABIES AT 17** (9 p.m., Sun., TLC) and **TODDLERS & TIARAS** (10 p.m.).

MM, PINE-FRESH



FANGS FOR LOVING ME: Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer in "True Blood."

Don hopes his new-car smell exudes the aroma of success on **MAD MEN** (10 p.m., Sun., AMC).

GOOD LUCK, BUDDY

Vince looks for a rebound in his career on the fifth-season opener of **ENTOURAGE** (10 p.m., Sun., HBO).

MATERNAL INSTINCT

Joan exhibits jitters about becoming a mother on **ARMY WIVES** (10 p.m., Sun., Lifetime). KEVIN McDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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2

Family Entertainment

The National Mall is a place for big parties, and this weekend, the party is the Black Family Reunion. It was established in 1986 as a celebration of the black community in the United States, and it's been going strong ever since. The two-day festival will feature performances by Fantasia, Tank, Smokie Norful and Jason Champion. The shows start after 5 p.m. each day, and about 400,000 people are expected at the event, so be aware that the Mall might be crowded this weekend. f.z.

→ *National Mall between the U.S. Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial; Sat. and Sun., 12 p.m.-8 p.m., free; 202-737-0476. (Smithsonian)*

4

Rain, Rain Let Them Play

This one might be rained out, folks, but just in case the weather guys have it wrong (as usual), we'll let you know about it anyway. Gateway Park will be the setting for the 18th Annual Rosslyn Jazz Festival this Saturday. If the show does go on, you can expect performances from Holly Cole, Frederic Yonnet, Lafayette Gilchrist and the Spanish Harlem Orchestra. Do your best sun dance and enjoy the music. k.e.

→ *Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway, Arlington; Sat., 12:30 p.m., free; 703-228-1850. (Rosslyn)*



ELIZABETH WEINBERG

5

Brought to You by the Letter T

Dr. Dog is one of the few bands that relies heavily on '60s pop influences in this day and age, and gets away with it. The band members' Beatle-esque harmonies help, as does their sense of humor: They claim that they have been confused with a hip-hop outfit in the past (a Dre/Snoop mash-up, perhaps?), and each band member has a nickname starting with T (Taxi, Tables, Text, Trouble and Thanks). k.e.

→ *Iota, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; Fri., 9 p.m., \$15; 703-522-8340. (Clarendon)*

3

Deceiving Look

There's something about Liam Finn that leads the stereotyper in me to expect he'll strut out onto the stage, plop down on a stool, whip out his acoustic guitar and serenade me with a folk ballad or seven. Maybe it's the beard, maybe it's the Aussie factor — whatever it is, I am dead wrong. Liam is a master of mixing it up, and he's birthed a genre that includes that acoustic guitar but also is rich in electronics, experimental sounds and hard-rock elements — for every pretty melody, there's a gritty, edgy, unexpected instrumental added.

He shares a bill with the Veils. k.e.
→ *The Rock and Roll Hotel, 1353 H St. NE; Sat., 8:30 p.m., \$14; 202-388-7625.*



top stops WEEKEND



In a Class By Himself

Bob Newhart doesn't rely on obscenity or shock for his comedy. He manages to make Walter Raleigh jokes funny and does it with a deadpan delivery that would make Buster Keaton proud. Dirty jokes certainly have their place in comedy, but Newhart is in a class by himself (or maybe a class with George Carlin) when it comes to exposing the absurdities of everyday life. Newhart was on TV, starring on various shows, from the '70s through the '90s. Now he's back to his stand-up roots, and the world is funnier for it. f.z.

→ *Warner Theatre, 13th and E streets NW; Fri., 8 p.m., \$49.50-\$75; 202-397-7328. (Metro Center)*

dine&dash



Cupcakes — Trendy But So Delicious

CUPCAKES HAVE miraculously transformed from a staple of children's parties to a chic snack food. They are the sushi of the moment, with cupcake bars throughout D.C. charging \$3 each for these intensely flavorful little confections.

The newest cupcake hot spot is Hello Cupcake (1351 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-861-2253), a cozy storefront staffed by friendly, smiling young folks who don't hesitate to give recommendations.

The available flavors vary by the day of the week, but if you stop by on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday, ask for "De Lime and De Coconut." The citrus-flavored cake is moist and perfect — nothing like the grainy stuff available at some other D.C. bakeries, where frosting is king and the cake beneath is an afterthought.

But the frosting here's tasty, too. Each cupcake is topped with a cloud of cool, creamy goodness that's light enough that you won't eat yourself sick. On a warm, sticky D.C. day, it's as refreshing as a glass of milk.

The flavors at Hello Cupcake go beyond the typical chocolate, vanilla and red velvet selections. The "Velvet Elvis" reflects the King's favorite sandwich in its combination of peanut butter and banana. The "Maya Favorite Cupcake" takes chocolate on chocolate, often an overwhelming or monotonous blend, and adds cinnamon and chili to give it kick and sensuality.

Cupcake bars are a twee trend, but Hello Cupcake keeps it fresh.

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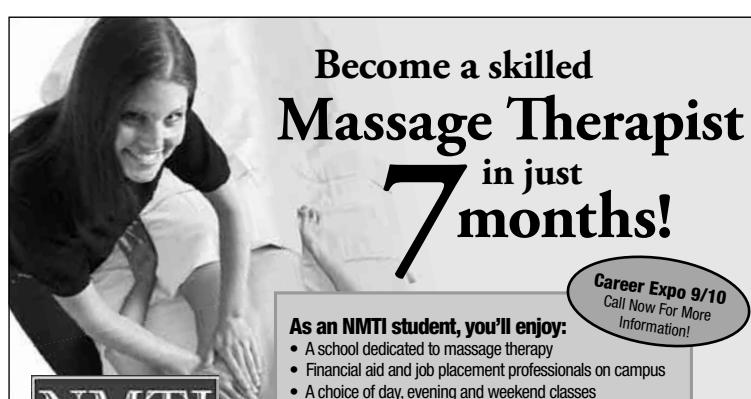
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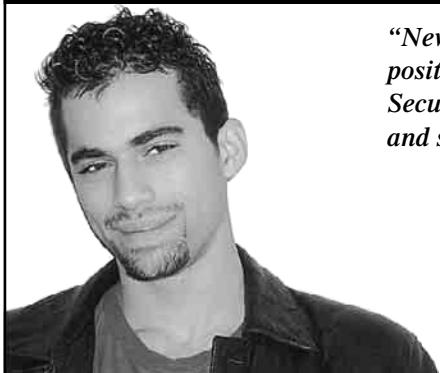
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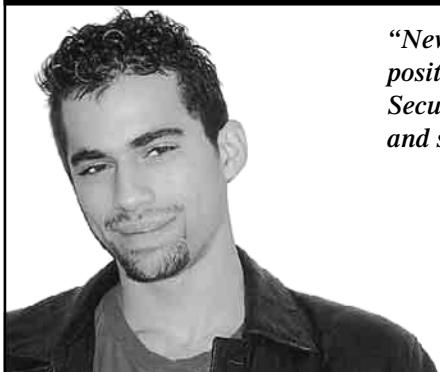
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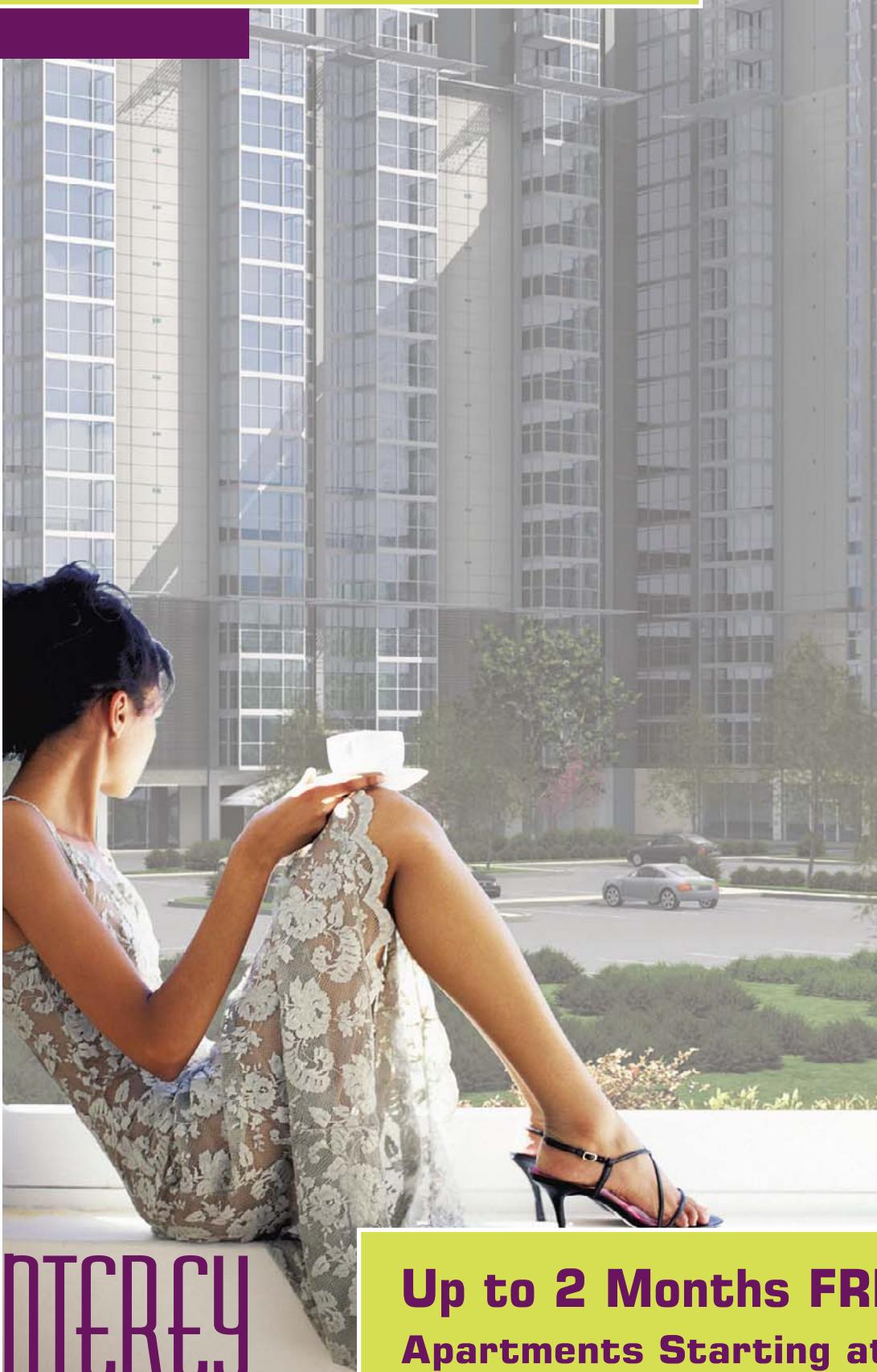
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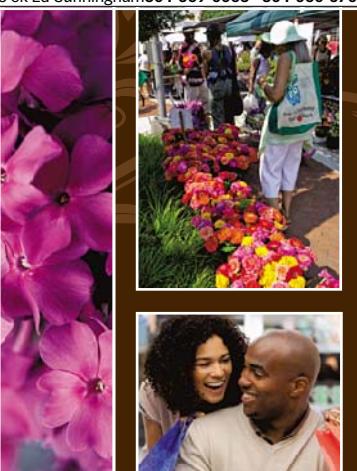
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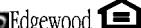
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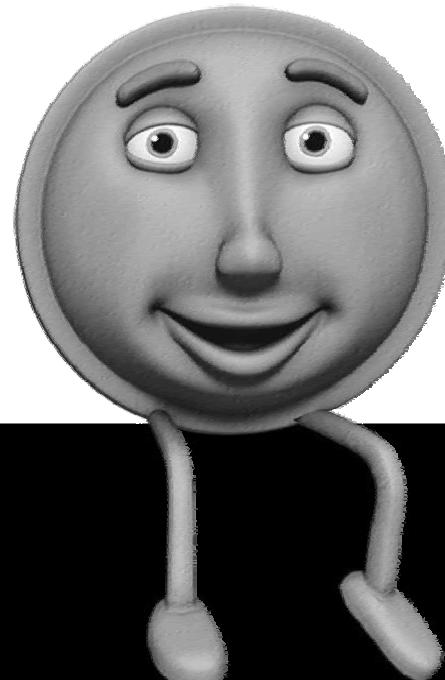
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LOOK out

* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Weed Power

Agriculture

Farmers grow pesky plants for use in a biodiesel experiment

The request caught dairy farmer Brian Ziehm off guard: Would he devote an acre of his fields near the Vermont line this fall to grow stinkweed?

"It was, like, 'What the heck? I've been trying to get rid of these things for 30 years. Now you want me to plant them?'"

But Ziehm happily agreed to grow the hardy weed called field pennycress — a.k.a. stinkweed — to help test a potential new source of fuel for the booming biodiesel market. A handful of fields across upstate New York will be planted with pennycress later this month under the pilot program launched by an Albany-based biodiesel company, Innovation Fuels Inc.

Past promises of cheap fuel grown on American soil have sometimes become stuck in the weeds, if you will, as prices for commodities like corn and soybean oil rose. But a number of researchers now believe that this winter weed with oily little seeds has an advantage in that it is not a food crop.

"Our intention is to create a crop that has a niche and does not displace anything else that is already growing," said Steve Vaughn, a plant physiologist with the National Center for Agricultural Utilization

Research in Peoria, Ill.

Biodiesel, as the name implies, is a fuel derived from vegetable oils or animal fats that can power diesel engines and be used for heating. It also can be blended with petroleum diesel. Biodiesel production has skyrocketed with the spike in fossil fuel prices, from 25 million gallons in 2004 to 500 million gallons last year, according to the National Biodiesel Board.

Biodiesel can be produced from animal fat, used cooking oil and a host of plants, though most biodiesel in the United States comes from soybean oil. Soybeans, like corn, are

INSIDE

Kathy Griffin
to present at
Emmys | 38



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Blog Log: Beware D.C. pool parking scams | 36

PHOTOS BY KEVIN RIVOLI/AP



SEEDS OF CHANGE: Joe Dickson of Innovation Fuels looks at a patch of field pennycress at his home in New Woodstock, N.Y.

a commodity in demand for both food and fuel. Prices for soybean oil have more than doubled since 2005, giving the industry added incentive to experiment with other potential sources of fuel.

"The rise in commodity prices has really driven us to focus on

other alternatives," said John Fox, Innovation's chief executive officer. Innovation relies primarily on animal fat to make biodiesel at its Newark, N.J. refinery.

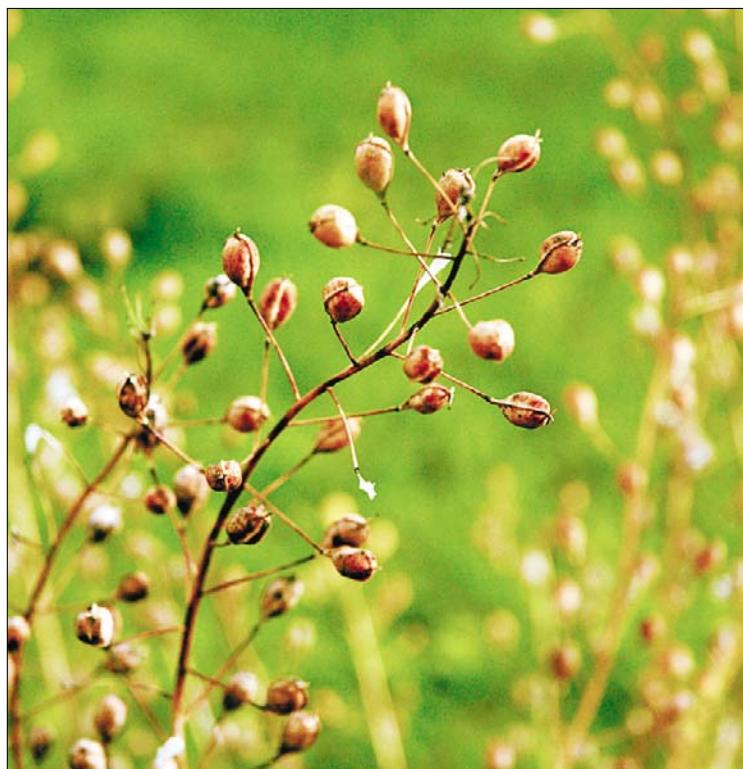
As biodiesel researchers look for ways to increase soybean yields, they also are looking at alternative fuel sources ranging from winter canola to algae. A few promising candidates are weeds, which are

Agricultural Utilization Research stumbled on pennycress a few years ago after noticing it growing wild. They soon found it had potential biodiesel benefits: The little seeds are 36 percent oil, it's easy to harvest and has potential for a high yield per acre.

Vaughn said what really separates pennycress from some other plants is that it's a "winter annual." Farmers plant in the fall and harvest in May or June. That could allow them to "double crop" — pennycress in the winter complementing a summer crop.

Fox added that paying farmers for growing pennycress could insulate them from commodity price swings. Innovation is doing test-plantings on Ziehm's Tiashoke Farm in Easton, N.Y., another in Washington County and two more in central New York. Morrisville State College is growing another plot. If things go well this winter, Innovation may approach more farmers next winter.

Don't plan on powering your diesel car with weed power just yet, though. Alan Weber, a senior adviser for the National Biodiesel Board, said that even if pennycress distinguishes itself, it could take years for it to become widespread on farms. MICHAEL HILL (AP)



Field pennycress, or stinkweed, is a potential new source of fuel for biodiesel.

Weeds are attractive to researchers because they sprout fast and they are aggressive.

attractive to researchers for the same reasons they exasperate suburban homeowners: They sprout fast, and they are aggressive.

Farmers in warmer climates around the world are looking at a plant called jatropha, and in Oregon this summer, they are planting camelina sativa, sometimes called false flax.

Researchers at the Center for

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MUSIC

Squeezebox Singer

Nootoo many musicians can rock a bedazzled accordian like Julieta Venegas. The talented Mexican singer-songwriter brings a festive energy to her shows, which D.C. folks can check out Tuesday at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. Alfredo Flores talked to the talented squeezeboxer. | COMING UP



TELEVISION

Jerk Posse

Is there anything more obnoxious than a show about how obnoxious Hollywood is? Thanks to HBO's "Entourage," people can take an inside peek into the world of celebrity ridiculousness. The fifth season premieres on Sunday, and Roxana Hadadi lists the series' top five jerkiest moments. | COMING UP



FALL PREVIEWS

Early Releases

The new TV season's official start date is weeks away, but Fox's weird-science thriller "Fringe" premieres Sept. 9, as does CW's sunny youth drama "Privileged." Fox's sitcom "Do Not Disturb" debuts Sept. 10, and AP's Frazier Moore has reviews of all three shows. | COMING UP

comment board

As an Eagles fan,

I am optimistic that the Redskins will miss the playoffs. The Cowboys are the class of the NFC East, and the Giants are the defending champions."

COMMENTER FILIHOK, WHO ADDED, "THAT LEAVES THE EAGLES AND REDSKINS FIGHTING FOR ONE MORE WILD CARD SPOT."

I love and support

my Redskins, but I don't think the playoffs are within reach for them this year, based on their preseason performance."

COMMENTER JEV, WHO ADDED, "I HOPE I AM PROVED WRONG BY PLAYOFF TIME."



It's possible the Redskins

could have a winning record this year. However, considering this is coach Zorn's first year, I don't think the team is playoff material — at least this year."

COMMENTER ARCHANUBUS, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC THAT THE REDSKINS WILL MAKE THE PLAYOFFS THIS SEASON?"

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC THAT THE REDSKINS WILL MAKE THE PLAYOFFS THIS SEASON?

NO 78%**YES** 22%SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER

Blog LOG

"What is wrong with people? A perfectly beautiful, healthy, happy tree — and it needs to be trimmed to match? I don't think so."

LACOCHRAN.BLOGSPOT.COM CAN'T BELIEVE HIS NEIGHBOR HAD THE AUDACITY TO ASK HIM TO TRIM HIS TREES TO LOOK LIKE HIS OWN, ADDING THAT HE WOULD PAY FOR IT HIMSELF.



DO WE NEED a few more wards, thereby adding a few council members (argh!) to make the wards smaller and provide a greater level of representation per capita?"

URBANPLACESANDSPACES.BLOGSPOT.COM PONDERS A NEW SYSTEM FOR D.C., ADDING, "NOT THAT I THINK WE NEED MORE COUNCIL MEMBERS NECESSARILY — WE HAVE A HARD ENOUGH TIME GETTING GOOD ONES NOW."

"I was one of their victims. Two weekends ago, I spotted an open parking area. There was no sign indicating a fee, but a lifeguard hit me up for payment just after I'd parked. He dropped my fiver into a big wad of bills."

WASHINGTONCITYPAPER.COM/BLOGS/CITYDESK WAS A VICTIM OF AN ALLEGED LIFE-GUARD PARKING SCAM AT FRANCIS POOL IN NORTHWEST D.C.

"This ain't 'Bobby's World,' but you'd think so, since [Palin's] voice sounds uncannily like the mom's from that show."

POOFYGOO.BLOGSPOT.COM HAD SOME TROUBLE LISTENING TO ALASKA GOV. SARAH PALIN'S SPEECH WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION IN ST. PAUL, MINN.



Discussions

Latinos for GOP

Republican strategist **LESLIE SANCHEZ**, author of "Los Republicanos: Why Hispanics and Republicans Need Each Other," was online Thursday to discuss Republicans' efforts to sway Hispanic voters in the 2008 election.

I am a Hispanic professional woman who is squarely middle class with a stay-at-home husband and two young children. Why should I vote Republican? How is it in my interests to do so?

When it comes to selecting a political party, it helps to know more about what you value and what you believe will most benefit your growing family. As Republicans, the shortest way I can explain it

is we believe in the politics of aspiration versus the politics of dependency. So, why vote Republican? Think of the following: You don't want your taxes raised; you want leadership in the country that puts this country first; you care about values of small government and limitation. Let's face it: John McCain has dedicated his life to putting country first.

So, how do you think Latinos — and particularly Latino women — will react to Gov. Sarah Palin?

In fairness, it's too early to say. Latinos tend to vote for candidates, not parties. Palin is still unknown. She has a compelling story that is relatable. She can build a connection with Latinas if she makes strong efforts to understand their needs and reach them.

Why do Hispanics need the GOP?

Traveling through the Mountain West and Southwest in 2006, I was struck by how xenophobic the radio commercials were. In Arizona, saying you support "amnesty" is like what saying you support "socialism" was back in the 1950s.

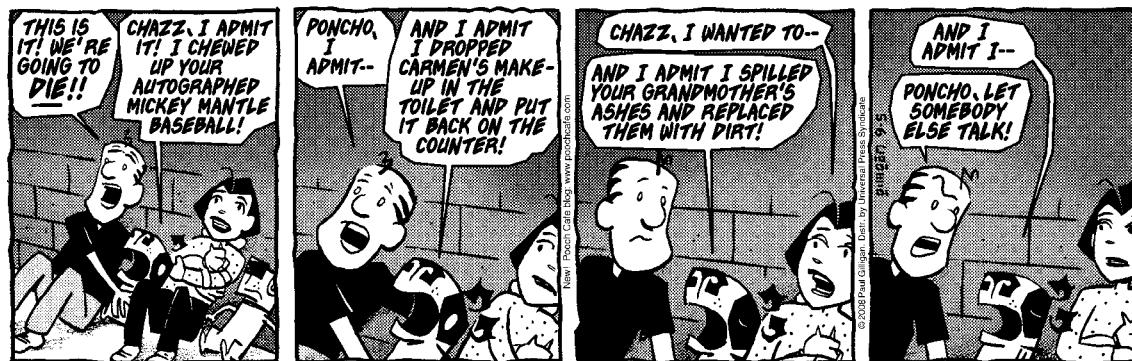
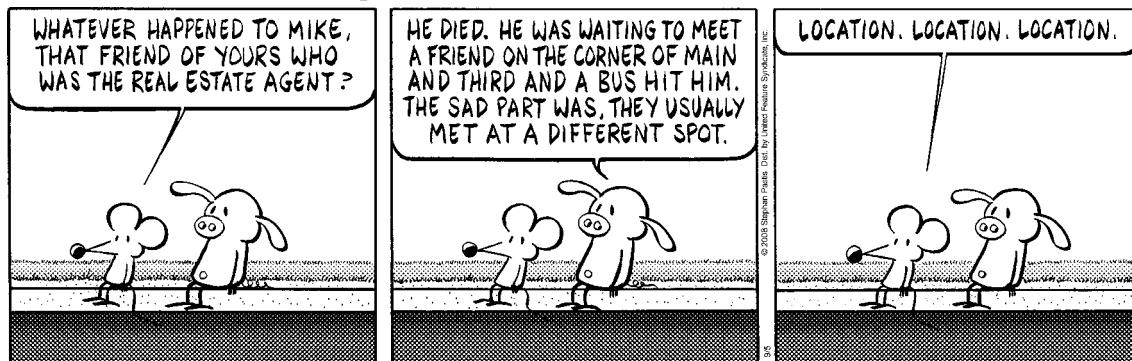
Hispanics need choices. To vote as a bloc limits our political impact and the need for both parties to understand, court, and focus on our community. You are correct about the xenophobic or harsh tone of the debate. I was on talk radio promoting this book, and individuals would call and ask if I was an illegal alien. That said, the GOP promotes legal immigration, and I do not believe the anti-Hispanic movement has a place in this party.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Post national political reporter Jonathan Weisman discusses John McCain's acceptance speech at 11 a.m. | washingtonpost.com/discussions.

LOOK out

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

DAN BIZARRO.COM
9-5-08

**Cornered** | Mike Baldwin**Pooch Cafe** | Paul Gilligan**Pearls Before Swine** | Stephan Pastis**The Duplex** | Glenn McCoy**Horoscope**

By Stella Wilder

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You can provide someone with a shoulder to lean on—but who is going to be there when you need someone? The answer should be evident.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) It's important that you let others in on a little secret right from the start. The more you keep to yourself, the less you may progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) An attraction between yourself and someone born under another sign could prove volatile. You may need to weigh your options.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) It may take you most of the day to build up the courage to give that special someone a call. You do have something important to say, after all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may have to slow down just a bit to care for a minor physical ailment that is a result of your overactive schedule.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You will be expected to put your cards on the table,

but you should be able to put a personal touch on the proceedings and come out ahead.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Concentrate on projecting the appropriate image and on receiving into your own circle the kind of input that is most helpful to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may have to recycle one or two of your best ideas simply to get by—but others will accept what you offer as first-rate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may want to change your image at this time, but others aren't likely to accept you as anything but what you already are. Trust the status quo.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Now is the time for you to invest a little more enthusiasm in your endeavors. When someone says jump, you should say, "How high?"

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Travel may be in the picture. Take precautions and plan ahead, but do expect some delays toward midday. Long-distance messages come your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You're likely to need someone to do things side by side with you, if for no other reason than you are hungry for some able companionship.



A member of Black September is seen during the siege at the Munich Olympics.

Today in History

1975 President Ford escapes an attempt on his life by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a disciple of Charles Manson, in Sacramento, Calif.

1997 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II breaks the royal reticence over Princess Diana's death, delivering a televised address in which she calls her former daughter-in-law "a remarkable person."

1997 Mother Teresa dies in Calcutta, India, at age 87.

LOOK out

People



What was Simmons' stylist thinking?

OOPS**Someone in Simmons' Legal Dept. Is Fired**

A man claims in a lawsuit that **GENE SIMMONS** took him for a ride on a deal with the Indy Racing League. Allan Brown sued Simmons and two partners, claiming the group cut him out of a deal between the Kiss bassist and the racing league. (AP)

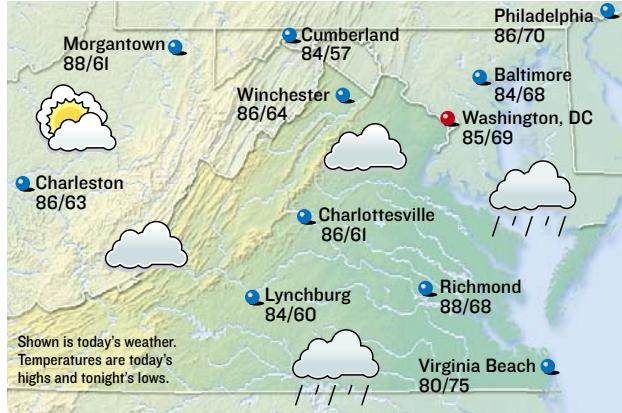
MONEY**Touching Flashback Makes Advertisers' Wallets Weep**

ANTHONY EDWARDS will reprise his role — via flashback — as Dr. Mark Greene during November sweeps on "ER,"

E! reported. The show is in its 15th and final season. The character died of a brain tumor. (AP)

**CASTING****Shock's Value**

KATHY GRIFFIN, who shook up an Emmy ceremony last year with her rowdy acceptance speech, is bringing her act to this year's awards. Griffin and Don Rickles will team up as presenters at the Sept. 21 ceremony. "As we near the telecast, there will be more sets of presenters that will surprise almost everyone," executive producer Ken Ehrlich said in a statement. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area**Today****Tonight****Saturday****79° / 67°****Sunday****86° / 66°****Monday****85° / 68°****Tuesday****85° / 67°****Regional Weather**

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

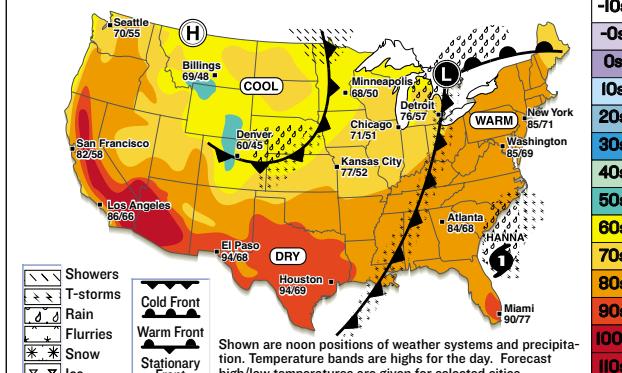
High	94°
Low	74°
Normal high	83°
Normal low	65°
Average humidity	50%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.48"
Year to date	33.55"
Last year to date	21.04"
Normal year to date	26.85"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather**Regional Forecast****D.C. Metro:** Today, sunny, then increasingly cloudy, not as hot. High 85. Wind south-southeast 6-12 mph. Tonight, rain. Low 69.**Sun and Moon**

Sunrise today 6:41 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 7:32 p.m.
 Moonrise today 12:45 p.m.
 Moonset today 10:14 p.m.

**National Weather for Friday, September 5****National Cities**

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	84/68/pc	87/67/pc	Amsterdam	66/57/r	71/54/c
Boston	84/66/s	76/65/r	Athens	91/75/s	93/74/s
Chicago	71/51/pc	77/56/pc	Berlin	70/56/c	74/56/sh
Dallas	92/70/pc	93/72/s	Buenos Aires	54/43/c	54/45/sh
Denver	60/45/r	78/49/s	Calgary	62/41/pc	55/39/c
Honolulu	89/74/s	89/75/s	Dublin	59/52/r	61/50/pc
Los Angeles	86/66/s	86/64/s	Geneva	77/61/c	77/60/sh
Miami	90/77/pc	91/77/s	Moscow	75/59/pc	79/59/sh
New York City	85/71/s	78/69/r	Rome	86/69/pc	87/71/s
Orlando	88/70/pc	92/74/s	Sydney	57/52/r	61/50/sh
Seattle	70/55/s	72/54/s	Tokyo	82/75/c	85/74/t

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



She just thought the cleanup fairy had come to visit.

camera captured his movements in Manhattan's SoHo Grand Hotel early Aug. 9. He was allowed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of attempted burglary. Police say cash, cameras, an iPod, wallets and purses were stolen from the suite. (AP)

POLITICS**Laptop Owners 30 Percent More Likely to Vote Now**

MICHAEL MOORE will release his new film online and for free. The film, "Slacker Uprising," follows Moore's 62-city tour during the 2004 election to rally young voters. It will be available for three weeks as a



free download to North American residents, beginning Sept. 23. "I thought it'd be a nice way to celebrate my 20th year of doing this," he said, "and also help get out the vote." (AP)



Oprah bonds with her best friend.

Puzzles

LOOKout

CROSSWORD | DOES THIS MAKE CENTS?

ACROSS

1 "Feed ___, starve a ___"
 6 "The Color of Money" theme
 10 "Enchanted" girl in a 2004 film
 14 Generic dog name
 15 Saint Columba's island
 16 Othello, by birth
 17 The Great Garbo
 18 Prague native's debit card alternative?
 20 "___ the fields we go!"
 21 Construct
 23 Newsstands, perhaps
 24 Land of the Po
 26 Hospital units
 27 Related paternally
 29 English cathedral town
 30 Uppity sort
 34 Universal salary increase?
 37 Kyoto cummerbund
 38 Scoundrels

DOWN

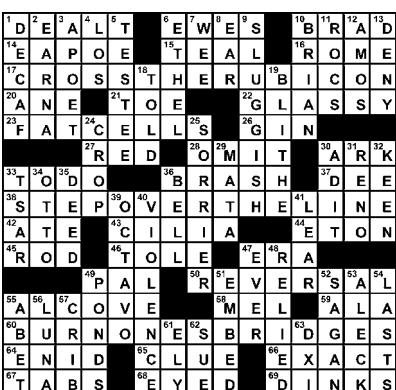
39 Ashes holder
 40 French painter Claude
 42 Suffix for "bombard"
 43 Writings by Venus Williams?
 46 Batiking needs
 48 Exclamation of affirmation
 49 Mathematical surfaces
 50 Some elementary grades
 52 Natural satellites
 53 Soak up
 56 Population center
 57 Samara dropper
 60 Thrilling tool for barbers?
 62 Pulitzer winner
 64 Whodunit first name
 65 Capital of Togo
 66 Up and about
 67 Canasta combo
 68 Truckful
 69 Devote, as time Dracula

35 Letters dating from the third century

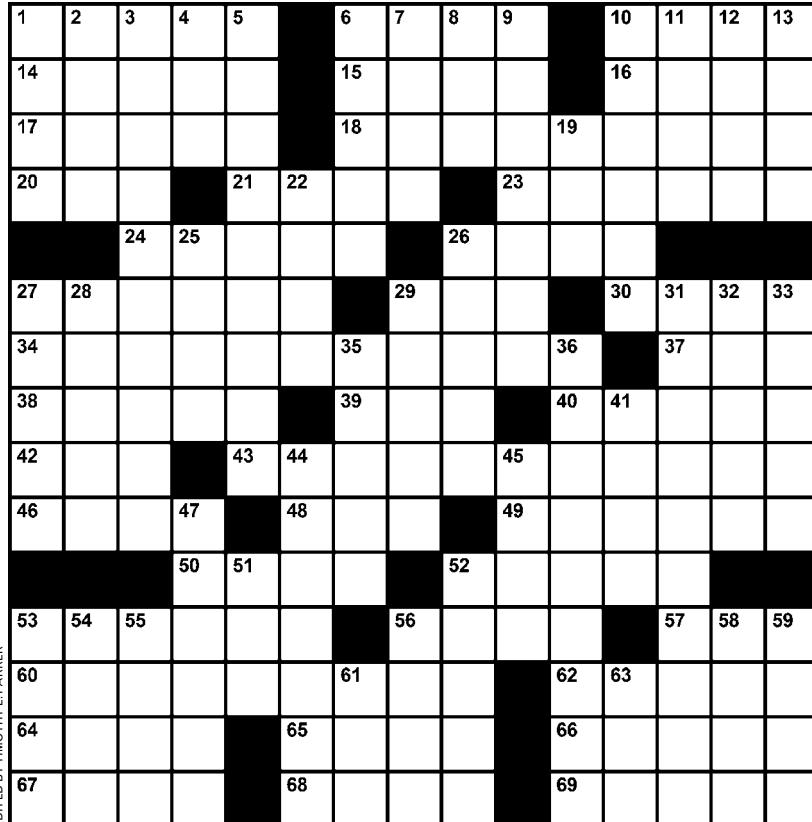
36 Job providers
 41 Algerian port
 44 Scope out
 45 Another generic dog name
 47 Made baskets
 51 Commit a faux pas
 52 Stuck in the muck
 53 "Pardon me"

54 Utterly unstocked, as shelves
 55 Spot for a warm pie
 56 What an out patient may be in?
 58 Encumbrance
 59 Repair
 61 Animal house?
 63 Challenge for a tailor

Yesterday's Solution



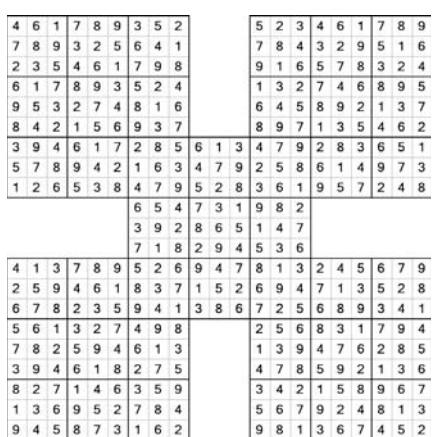
EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER



SAMURAI SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

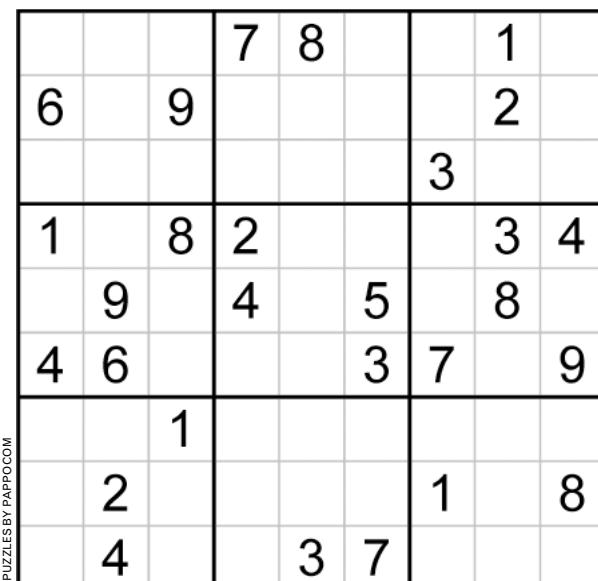
Last Week's Solution



express

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CLASSIC SUDOKU | HARD



© PUZZLES BY PAPOCOM

Yesterday's Solution



Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com.

Need more Sudoku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.





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RETRO CRINOLINES
AND STRUCTURED
SHAPES TURN YOU INTO A
WALKING WORK OF ART E4

MARGEE LY/EXPRESS

face time

■ Interior designer and cosmetics queen

India Hicks leads a charmed, chic life. An ex-model (and scion of decor don David Hicks), she resides in Bermuda, writing style books and dreaming up products for her Island Living collection for Crabtree & Evelyn. She's the new host of "Top Design," which just began season two on Bravo (Wed., 10 p.m.).

"Top Design" works like "Top Chef," except with designers. What challenges will they get this season?

They'll face issues like working with budgets, having a good eye and bringing ideas together.

Many challenges see them producing very spiffy rooms on very small budgets. What's the key to that?

My father always said, "Good taste and good design are by no means dependent on money." And I think that's very telling. If you have design talent, you can go to a junkyard and pick out bits that will be stylish.

Is sending contestants home hard?

Telling someone their work isn't good enough is heartbreaking. I do think they all learned something, though. It wasn't like eating bugs!

Watching these young designers work, did you spot any trends?

Trends, not necessarily, but influences, yes. To me, being English, I wasn't that familiar with Kelly Wearstler's work. These kids often cited her and the Hollywood Regency look as their influences. And eco was also extremely important.

If you could give a young designer one bit of advice, what would it be?

Be individual, and have something original. Make your spaces reflect yourself.

What's your decorating style like?

Since I live in the Caribbean, I try to keep it vernacular with a very plantation feel — lots of rattan. And I like to keep a sense of humor, so,



PETER TANGEN/IBRAVO

India Hicks

HOST OF "TOP DESIGN," SHEPHERD'S PIE MAKER

in the living room, I've got goldfish swimming in a perspective box.

How do you come up with lotions and potions for Crabtree & Evelyn?

Designing the collection was easy, but developing the fragrances was an enormous task. I had my hand held by two "noses" from perfume houses. We talked in colors. I wanted scents that seemed

cream or white. I think it worked out very well.

You're known for your fashion sense. Who are your favorite designers?

Christian Louboutin is a great inspiration. And I love Ralph Lauren's easy, wearable look.

How do you doll up for a night out?

A gigantic stiletto heel! That

"If you have talent, you can go to a junkyard and pick out bits that will be stylish."

makes me feel vamped up. Yet I don't go over-the-top. I like Vera Wang dresses. They're fantastic in a quiet way.

What are your parties like?

I entertain a lot, because when you live in the Bahamas, you've never had so many friends. We do seated dinners but change things up. Like we'll put the dining table outside in a flower-filled courtyard or do an all-white table with white plates, wine and candles.

And what's on the menu?

It depends on the time of year. I try to use local grouper or lobster. And sometimes, since I'm English, I'll do a shepherd's pie or roast beef.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



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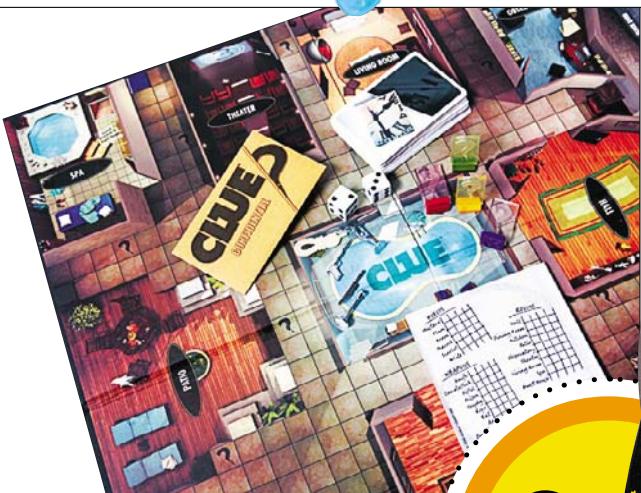


1 You're Better Off Head

TOO MANY COOKS may spoil the broth, but it's tough to imagine you could ever have enough Head Chefs (\$10 each, Laprimashops.com). The new line of silicone sillies with bendable arms and legs can stand on their own, brighten up a blah counter top and, of course, even help you whip up a meal. And while the spoon, pastry brush, spatula, whisk and measuring cup are meant for tykes, we imagine older folks might also appreciate having some company in the kitchen.

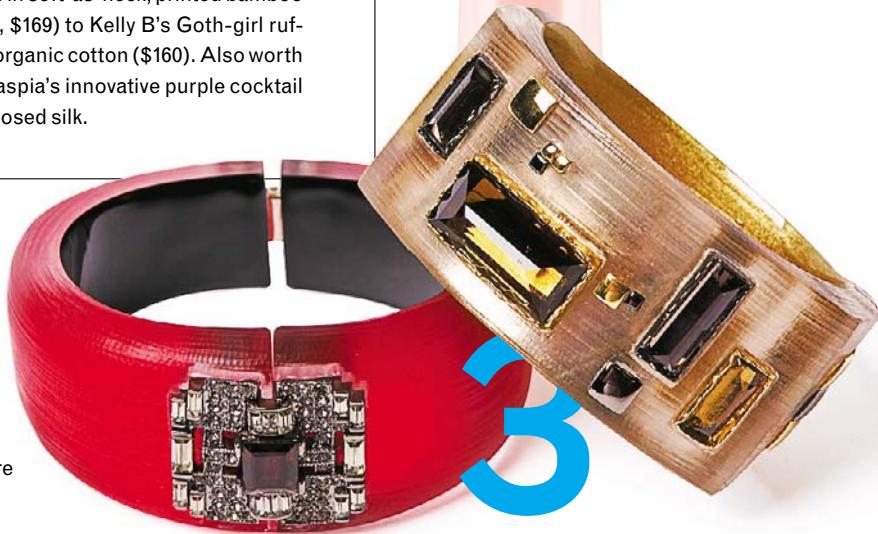
2 Working Over Crime

MISS SCARLET is now a movie star who might have offed someone in the home spa with what seems to be an Emmy trophy. The suspects, weapons and board for the new Clue game (\$12, Amazon.com) look different from what you played at Aunt Bea's. This may disturb trad whodunit nuts. But does anyone really lurk in a conservatory with a lead pipe anymore?



On the Glitter Patrol

LUCITE IS BOTH a canvas and a sculpting clay of sorts to New York jewelry designer Alexis Bittar, who has turned out plaid brooches, rhinestone-loaded rings and other styles over the years. His latest cuff designs (\$260-\$450, Terra, 1706 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-232-8581) seem to have time-traveled in from the Jazz Age. Studded with faux topazes, tourmalines and diamonds not quite as big as the Ritz, they're great mates for a little black dress or even a jewel-hued fall blazer.



3

Eco, Chicer

THE GREENOSPHERE keeps getting more glamorous, at least judging from the new fall lines at Adams Morgan's Hoopla Eco Boutique (2314 18th St. NW; 202-797-0730). Hot-on-the-bod, easy-on-the-earth styles range from EcoSkin's one-armed dresses in soft-as-heck, printed bamboo jersey (shown, \$169) to Kelly B's Goth-girl ruffled blouse in organic cotton (\$160). Also worth a try-on: Modaspia's innovative purple cocktail frock in repurposed silk.

Grab Bag



5

Whip It, Gloss It

TRAVEL-SIZE S & M accessory or sweet and simple lip gloss? Perhaps both, but we won't pry into your personal lives. Despite its risqué exterior, the new Wicked Lovely lip gloss from Smashbox is actually a rather innocent addition to our makeup bag, especially in the great nude shade Coy (\$18, Sephora). The paintbrush-style applicator allows you to swipe on just a little at a time, preventing the "melting lips" effect that often results from over-glossing.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBOOKER

I'm a small-town girl with big-time dreams who has just been given the job of a lifetime. The next eight weeks will be super-demanding, and I'll be in the limelight a lot. What would you recommend to make me seem a little more polished? — SARAH

■ Manolo says, congratulations on your recent success. Clearly, you are the woman to be reckoned with! Yes, it is always the same with the small-town girls who make it big; on the one



of the hands, you wish to give yourself the making over so as to seem more fashionable, while on the other of the hands you do not want to lose that refreshing American naturalness that others recognize as the heart of your charm. In the other words, how to be more Catherine Deneuve without sinking your Molly Brown. Naturally, the Manolo suggests starting with the shoes. You must shed those pedestrian, poor-quality shoes and move up-market. Look, here is the Karolina in black patent from Kate Spade (\$259, Zappos.com), both super-fantastic and all-American!

Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Rhianne stands in front of Tony Smith's "Throwback" on the plaza of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (950 Independence Ave. SE). She wears a Diana Inman blouse (\$595, Betsy Fisher), wire cuffs and a McQ skirt (\$55 and \$180, Terra). Store details, Page 4. Hair/Makeup Kathy Aragon, T.H.E. Artist Agency. Model T.H.E. Artist Agency. Photo by Marge Ely.

Styles | fashion



1 The Bell Curve

A skirt (\$60, H&M) goes retro with a Joie blouse (Cusp, Tysons Corner Center; 703-288-1940), 3.1 Philip Lim belt (\$175, Muléh, 1831 14th St. NW; 202-667-3440), Claudia Ciuti heels (\$395, Betsy Fisher, 1224 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-785-1975) and a ring (\$220, Terra, 1706 Connecticut Ave.; 202-232-8581).

2 To Have and to Fold

Asymmetric angles worthy of a Picasso make Marley's mini (\$165, Intermix.com) right for cocktails, or, with tights, the cubicle. Play up its sexy shape with a Common Thread leather bomber (\$685, Muléh), a tee (\$95, Reiss, 1254 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-944-8565) and Ramon Tenza Mary Janes (\$220, Betsy Fisher).

3 Abstract Expression

Structured wool tiers lend 3.1 Philip Lim's short style graphic glam (\$350, Muléh). It's welcome at any party with a Ports 1961 silk blouse (\$210, Muléh), Martine Sitbon leather clutch (\$203, Betsy Fisher), wire cuff (\$55, Terra) and snake-textured leather pumps (\$330, Reiss).



4

A Pleat Idea

Think an artsy skirt can't earn critical raves at the office? Reiss' cotton pleated baby (\$180, Reiss) scores points (in a hot gallery-owner way) with a simple white blouse (\$190, Reiss), red platforms (\$395, Betsy Fisher) and Rachel Reinhardt bracelet (\$75, Betsy Fisher).

5

Stroke of Genius

A "Leave It to Beaver" full skirt (\$148, Anthropologie.com) becomes sultry, thanks to its hipster yellow hue, bow detailing and crinoline. Keep it firmly in the 21st century with a tissue tee (\$95, Reiss), an onyx and gold-plate cuff (\$585, Terra), and sky-high pumps (\$335, Reiss).

**KEEP
EVERYTHING
ELSE SIMPLE
—A FITTED,
SOLID-COLOR
TOP, A SHOE
WITH HEIGHT.
YOU WANT THE
SKIRT TO BE THE
CENTERPIECE."**

—ORIANA KHATSO, TERRA

Shaped Crusaders

At the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, culture fiends are drawn to tactile elements and wild angles: a Pop Art-y paint squiggle by Roy Lichtenstein, a curvy bronze bird by Joan Miró. For fall, fashion designers were also inspired by structure and architecture, turning out skirts shaped with boning, tucking and even "Mad Men"-era crinolines. Styles range from the popular pencil, elevated by pleats worthy of a Greek temple deity, to bell-shaped numbers that seem almost Cubist. No, wearing one of these statement pieces isn't for the faint-of-fashion heart—or, in some cases, the curvy. The key to wearing one? "Keep everything else simple—a fitted, solid-color top, a shoe with height," says Oriana Khatso, owner of Dupont Circle boutique Terra. "You want the skirt to be the centerpiece." JOHANNA COX



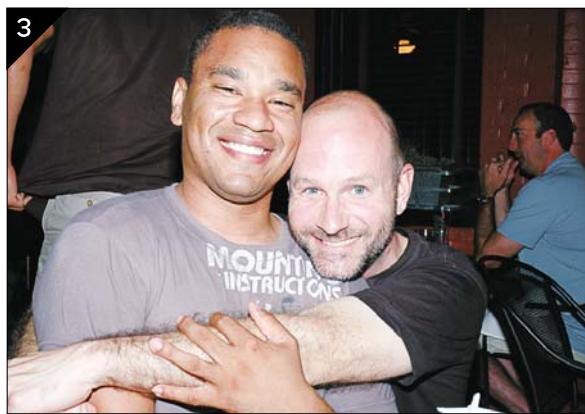
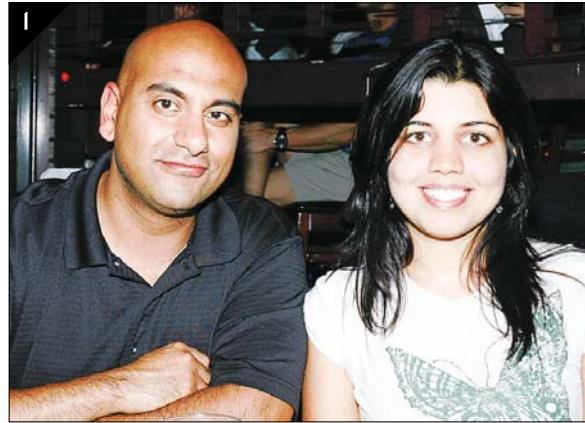
Styles | people



Q Which politician could you see yourself dating?

CAFE SAINT-EX | U STREET | SEPT. 2

1. "Nancy Pelosi — 30 years ago," Nick Rajpara with Avni Vyas. **2.** "Abraham Lincoln. Because he's honest as [expletive]," Katherine McAram. "Jackie O. She's hot and has nice hats," Jason Cragg. **3.** "Kennedy. He was gorgeous," Yama Terrell, left. "Barack Obama. I'd have his children. That would level the playing field," Chuck Gurney. **4.** "John F. Kennedy. He has a way with words. If I'm going to switch for any man, it'd be him," Thurston Cobb. **5.** "[South Dakota Rep.] Stephanie Herseth Sandlin. She's really attractive, and she's cool," Chris Pennington. **6.** "Janet Reno. Her work during the Waco tragedy was fantastic," Jess Over, left. "Margaret Thatcher. I like a strong woman," Michael Schoenecker. ROBYN MINCHER



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* BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Nicholas McMurdy, Michelle Simon

Nick, 30, is a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Michelle, 29, works at Discovery Communications. They live in Woodley Park.

■ **The Main Event:** A black tie-optinal wedding in D.C. on Sept. 13.

■ **How They Met:** While living in New York, Nick and a pal threw a party to congratulate a friend who ran the New York City Marathon. Michelle tagged along with Nick's friend's buddy.

■ **First Impressions:** "Who is that hot girl?" "He's so cute!"

■ **First Date:** Dinner followed by a trip

to the top of the Empire State Building. "I thought, 'Wow, this is cheesy,'" says Michelle. "But I loved that he was thinking outside the box. We could have gone to another bar, but he took me up there. It made for one hell of a first kiss!"

■ **How He Proposed:** Nick left their pad in a sweatsuit, pretending to run errands, but when he returned, he was wearing a suit and carrying roses. "I thought I was going to pass out, my heart was beating so fast," he says. "I couldn't speak. ... It could have been a PSA for what to look for when you suspect someone is having a stroke. All I could muster was, 'I love you. I love you ... lots.'"

■ **When She Knew:** When they moved in together. "We were loading up the elevator to take the last of his stuff. He turned to me with a big smile and offered me a high five. He said, 'I'm so proud of us.' It was the sweetest moment."

"I loved the fact that he had a circle of friends he really valued."

Adian Lynes David Miller

Adian, 29, is an attorney. David, 29, is a communications manager. They live in D.C.

■ **The Main Event:** A semiformal evening ceremony followed by a garden, barbecue-theme reception in Wheaton on Sept. 13. "Our best friend is marrying us," says Adian. "And I'm wearing a fancified prom dress." She'll walk down the aisle to the waltz from "Sleeping Beauty." After they exchange vows, they'll exit to

the theme from "The Muppet Show."

■ **How They Met:** Craigslist, says David. "I couldn't resist the only personal ad that had proper spelling and grammar!"

■ **First Date:** They met at Adams Morgan's Toledo Lounge for drinks. "We ended up going to three different places and talking all night," says David.

■ **How He Proposed:** "When I was a



kid, my mom convinced me butterflies were fairies who sometimes left me presents. So, he took me to a butterfly house and said, 'Look, the fairies left you a pres-

ent.' I turned around and he was on one knee with the ring."

■ **Most Hated Clothing Item:** "She's got this green track jacket she wears when she runs. It hides her neck, which is one of my favorite things about her."

■ **Making It Unique:** The DJ will play indie rock, there's a butterfly theme and they're flying in Michigan cherry pie.

■ **When He Knew:** "When Adian tried to break up with me, I panicked so much that I left work in the middle of the day to win her back."

■ **Wedding Jitters:** Adian fears "someone will get too drunk and knock over my magnificent cupcake tower."



Daniel Levin, Calli Schiller

Calli, 26, recently graduated from Georgetown University with a master's degree. Daniel, 26, is an engineer. They live in Silver Spring.

■ **The Main Event:** A formal wedding and reception in D.C. on Sept. 7. Calli will walk down the aisle to "Something" by the Beatles.

■ **Honeymoon:** A Mediterranean cruise to Italy and Croatia.

■ **How They Met:** At a dinner party hosted by a mutual friend.

■ **First Impressions:** "We actually didn't get along too well that night," says Calli. "I thought Dan was a snob."

■ **First Date:** They split a doughnut and drank hot cocoa at Cosi.

■ **How He Proposed:** While on a cruise in HaLong Bay, Vietnam. "Dan

"Dan has always been there and is so supportive of me. Every day, I love him a little bit more."

had arranged for the deck to be cleared. While I napped on the upstairs deck, Dan ran downstairs. He changed into a suit, cut out the ring he had sewn into his pants and ran back before I woke up. When I came down to the deck, he made me the happiest woman alive."

■ **Wedding Jitters:** "That our parents won't behave," says Dan. "Luckily, we have a wedding planner to keep them in line."

■ **When She Knew:** "Dan has always been there and is so supportive of me. Every day, I love him a little bit more."



Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.



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